

Cabinet holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and approved the minutes of deliberations of the Jordanian and Yemeni health ministries' recent meeting. The Cabinet's decision provides for facilitating the treatment of Yemeni patients in Jordan. The decision states that a Jordanian health official will be appointed in Sana'a and a Yemeni official will be employed at the Ministry of Health in Amman to deal with all correspondence dealing with Yemeni patients and arrange for receiving them at Jordanian hospitals. It also specifies that Yemeni nationals receiving medical treatment at Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman will be treated at Jordanian hospitals at the cost of surgery. According to the Cabinet's decision, Jordanian private sector hospitals will be receiving the minimum treatment costs of fixed surgery fees from Yemeni patients. The agreement between the two ministries also states that Jordan will offer training to Yemeni doctors at the ministry's hospitals around the Kingdom and will second Jordanian medical teams to Yemen. The Council of Ministers also approved the minutes of deliberations of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Trade Committee which met between Aug. 31 and Sept. 6 in Cairo.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

90 killed in clashes in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Ninety people were killed in clashes between Kurdish rebels and security forces in southeast Turkey Tuesday, a senior official said. Emergency rule Governor Unal Erkan told reporters that 54 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels, 23 Turkish soldiers, eight civilians and five government-paid village guards had been killed in clashes near Derick in Hakkari province. He said the clashes erupted after the PKK attacked a big gendarme post near the Iraqi border in the early hours. It was one of the biggest death tolls for a single day in the eight-year-old struggle waged by the PKK for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast.

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Abu Jaber chairs meeting

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber chaired Tuesday in Washington a meeting of foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the Middle East peace process. Participants in the meeting exchanged views on the outcome of the sixth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, which concluded last week. Dr. Abu Jaber attended another meeting of Arab foreign ministers attending the United Nations General Assembly current session. On Tuesday, the minister met with his British counterpart Douglas Hurd and reviewed with him the peace process and Europe's role in supporting it. The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East region. Dr. Abu Jaber had also separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Iraq, Singapore and Yemen, as well as the French deputy foreign minister.

Algeria bans sixth publication

ALGERIA (R) — Algeria's interior ministry has banned a magazine for "undermining national unity, public security and the honour of the armed forces and security services." "Ala Upe" (front page) is the sixth publication, including three daily newspapers, to be banned in the past two months. A ministry statement said staff responsible for the fortnightly journal would be prosecuted for defamation. The magazine, which published foreign news reports about Algeria, was accused of using "confusion, manipulation and rumour with the evident aim of destabilising institutions, demoralising our forces and spreading doubts among the people."

Eritrean groups unite against EPLF

JEDDAH (AP) — Four Eritrean liberation groups, at loggerheads with the ruling Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), have united under a national charter and promised to work for multi-party democracy in Eritrea. They announced their aim after two weeks of talks in this Red Sea coastal city. "Our aim is to establish a fully democratic regime to spare the country and the people the evils of dictatorship following its long struggle for independence from Ethiopia," they said in statements which were carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. Diplomats noted with interest that it was the first time that Eritrean groups had officially met in Saudi Arabia or that their comments were given prominence by the official media.

Gunmen kill policeman in southern Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Gunmen killed a policeman and seriously wounded another in Egypt's southern Assiut province, a Muslim militant stronghold, security sources said on Tuesday. They said gunmen opened fire Monday night on a group of part-time policemen patrolling the village of Bahut, about 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

2 copters collide near Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS (AP) — Two sightseeing helicopters collided near Niagara Falls Tuesday, one plunging into the gorge below and the other parking safely on land at Theme park, police said. WebR Radio in Buffalo, New York, reported two people killed and three injured. The scenic falls, a tourist site since the 19th century, are a popular destination for honeymooners from the northeastern United States.

Garang deputy defects

NAIROBI (R) — A top official of the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and deputy to rebel leader John Garang has defected to join a platoon faction, the rebel movement announced Tuesday. In a statement issued in the Kenyan capital Nairobi the SPLA said William Nyom Bany defected at Sunday accompanied by 100 men to join the Nasir faction of the SPLA, a splinter group led by militant commanders.

Shbeilat and Qarrash go on open court trial

By Sam Atiyeh and P.V. Vivekanand

MARKA — The trial of deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash and two other co-defendants began at the State Security Court on Tuesday with formal charges. The trial, which is the first of its kind in Jordan, is being held in public and is being covered by the media.

The four accused were charged with various counts ranging from plotting against the regime, trying to undermine Jordanian-Israeli relations, possession of explosives and weapons and slandering the Monarch and Parliament.

The trial was adjourned until Wednesday when the prosecution is expected to answer to a host of technical objections raised by defence lawyers to the way the investigations and questioning of the accused were conducted in the build-up to the case.

None of the defendants entered a plea pending the response by the prosecution, Major Muhammad Hijazi, to defence attorneys.

Dr. Ibrahim Bakr, who is leading a team of 12 lawyers defending Mr. Shbeilat, argued in a nine-page presentation that:

— Part of the investigations was carried out by the general intelligence department and then handed over to the prosecutor;

— The procedure of interrogations of suspects and witnesses and the investigations were illegal;

— The defendant's constitutional rights were violated when the authorities bugged his phone since October 1991 without a prior court order;

— There were contradictions in dates given by the prosecutor specifying the period of investigations, surveillance and arrest.

Shbeilat's chief lawyer Ahmad Abu Arkoub also objected to the charges against his client in a four-page memorandum which he read to the court.

His objections, many of which echoed the points raised by Mr. Bakr, also included the questioning of the credibility of the testimonies made by suspects who were released.

Mr. Abu Arkoub also challenged the constitutionality and jurisdiction of the State Security Court, which is presided over by three military officers, saying it was an "extraordinary court" which was not empowered to try a case involving charges as cited in the chargesheet.

Mr. Bakr is also challenging the legality to the State Security Court in a separate case filed by Mrs. Shbeilat at the Higher Court of Justice.

The main argument in that case is the State Security Court was created at a time of dire emergency and such conditions do not exist now.

Lawyers for the third and fourth defendants did not make any presentation.

Major Hijazi sought 24 hours to prepare his response to the defence arguments and the presiding judge, Lieutenant-Colonel Youssef Fawzi, set the session for 9.30 Wednesday morning.

Mr. Shbeilat, 49, an independent member of the Lower House of Parliament from the Third District of Amman and named first defendant, was charged with seven counts:

— Belonging to an illegal organisation (Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami) which aims at changing the Constitution and overthrowing the regime through revolution and sabotage and seeking to take leadership position;

— Instigating others through speech and writings to change the constitution and overthrowing the regime;

— Undertaking actions designed to undermine Jordan's relations with Iraq;

— Possessing explosives without licence intended for illegal use;

— Possessing automatic weapons without licence intended for illegal use;

— Slandering members of Parliament with abusive language;

— Slandering the dignity of His Majesty the King through written material.

Shbeilat's Qarrash 40, also an independent deputy from the Second District of Amman and named second defendant, was charged only on the first five counts.

The third and fourth defendants, Ahmad Ayyoubi, 45, and Abdul Hamid Ikkedek, 44 — owners of a Jabal Hussein shop called "The World of Mirrors and Frames" — were charged on the first three counts only.

Mr. Fawzi said he rejected the UAE's demand to enlarge the agenda to include the Greater Tunnah and the Lesser Tunnah. (They) belong to Iran and no Iranian would allow himself to negotiate with others on the sovereignty of his own land," he said.

Iran accused Western powers of instigating the row, in which Arab countries closed ranks behind the UAE, in order to create discord in the region and justify their military presence there.

The two-day talks in Abu Dhabi ended Monday evening with no result after the Iranian delegation rejected a UAE demand to discuss two other islands controlled by Iran.

Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted Mostafa Haeri Fomani, Iran's chief negotiator at the talks, as saying there was agreement to discuss a final agenda for the dialogue to resume in Tehran. No date was set.

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CONGRATULATIONS: His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal Tuesday received a poem paying tribute to his 50th birthday from the King and congratulating him on his successful surgery and safe return home (see story on page 3)

King, Sharif Zeid reaffirm commitment to human rights

No arrest or detention for beliefs as long as no law is violated, premier tells Amnesty chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday expressed pride in Jordan's record in respect for human rights, democracy and political pluralism based on dialogue, freedoms with responsibilities and popular involvement and reaffirmed the Kingdom's total commitment to respecting human rights.

The King, in a meeting with Ian Martin, secretary-general of the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International, also emphasised that Jordan aspires to be an example for democracy, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra quoted Mr. Martin as expressing appreciation of Jordan's democratisation process, "which reflects the country's commitment to human rights and international conventions as embodied in Jordan's National Charter."

According to the news agency, Mr. Martin, who is on a short visit to Jordan, also voiced deep admiration for the climate of freedoms and the emergence of political pluralism as evident in the formation of political parties in the Kingdom and said that the democratic process in the country was of paramount importance to the region.

Mr. Martin said Amnesty appreciated the abolition earlier this year of martial law in Jordan and the Kingdom's support for international humanitarian causes.

The Amnesty secretary-general supported the King's call for an Arab human rights charter, Petra said.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker also met with Mr. Martin and called on Amnesty to draw international attention to the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Sharif Zeid particularly referred to the plight of Palestinians languishing in Israeli jails for demanding freedom and their legitimate national rights.

He also called on Amnesty to seek an end to Kuwait's expulsion of Jordanians, Palestinians and bedouins (stateless Arabs), Petra said.

Those being expelled from Kuwait are deprived of their rights and this practice will only prolong the negative consequences of the Gulf crisis, the agency quoted the prime minister as saying.

Sharif Zeid and Mr. Martin also made a general review of relations between Amnesty International and Jordan.

Mr. Martin expressed Amnesty's appreciation of the Jordanian government's democratic practices, particularly in the context of public freedoms which everyone enjoys without any discrimination, Petra reported.

Such practices, he said, have made Jordan a potential haven for political groups oppressed in their home countries.

Petra quoted Sharif Zeid as saying that Jordan was following a well-planned course in its democratisation process which

value of \$4 billion over six months.

The proceeds would be deposited in a U.N. account and would be used for food, medicine and other civilian needs.

The imports of humanitarian supplies would be subject to stringent monitoring procedures set up by the Security Council.

— Iraq would donate five per cent of its net proceeds to such organisations as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for relief operations in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The memo said the Vienna talks broke down mainly because negotiators insisted all oil be shipped through Iraq's pipeline to Turkey instead of its port of Mina Al Bakr.

A second problem for Iraq was the role of U.N. agencies who were to monitor the food distribution.

An agreement with the United Nations on 500 guards and 600 relief workers expired in June, thereby bringing the U.N. humanitarian programme in Iraq to a near standstill.

The memo said U.N. security guards to protect relief workers should be reduced from 500 to 150 in northern Iraq where Kurds controlled their own territory. Another five could be in Baghdad for administrative purposes.

Iraq also questioned free access by the U.N. personnel to all parts of the country and offices wherever the U.N. wished.

Such measures, the memo said, "should be addressed functionally." Free access was feasible only in "areas where activities of the

plurism as evident in the formation of political parties in the Kingdom and said that the democratic process in the country was of paramount importance to the region.

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King meets ulema from W. Bank, Ramadan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a group of Muslim scholars from the occupied territories and reiterated Jordan's commitment and keen interest in upkeeping the holy Islamic shrines in Jerusalem.

In a separate meeting, the King also met with Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, who conveyed to him greetings from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people and congratulated him on his successful surgery he underwent last month and his return home last week after recuperation.

The Muslim scholars, led by Sheikh Saadeddin Al Alami, mufti of Jerusalem and head of the Higher Islamic Council of the Holy City, called at the Royal Court to congratulate the King on his recovery from illness and his safe return home and wish him continued good health.

The King reiterated Jordan's commitment to provide protection and care for Islamic shrines in the occupied territories, particularly the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosques in occupied Jerusalem, Petra said. The holy shrines, the King said, represent "a great symbol for Muslims and for the Islamic faith and heritage."

Speaking on behalf of the group, Sheikh Alami said he had made the trip to Amman despite his old age and ill-health to inform the King that the Al Aqsa Mosque was facing danger.

"No-one among Arab kings and heads of state is more willing to offer protection to Al Aqsa other than King Hussein," Petra quoted Sheikh Alami as saying.

Sheikh Muhammad Jamal said the people of the occupied territories were jynns over the King's safe return home after successful surgery and were awaiting liberation from occupation, the agency said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Khaled Karaki attended the meeting.

In his meeting with Mr. Ramadan, the King thanked President Saddam and the Iraqi people for their good wishes and requested

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string of Lebanese villages north and northwest of the strip, security sources said.

Two civilians, a woman and a 75-year-old man, were killed and 10 were wounded in the bombardment of Brassheet, Touline and Habboush villages, they said.

Hizbollah gunmen responded with a barrage of artillery fire and salvos of Katyusha rockets at Israeli reinforcement patrols in the zone as they headed to the frontlines, they said.

The clash coincided with a visit to the south by Ireland's Minister of State for Defence Noel Dempsey. He arrived in Lebanon Monday to check on the Irish contingent.

The SLA, which along some 1,000 Israeli soldiers patrols the 15-kilometre deep "security zone," retaliated by firing dozens of heavy artillery shells into a

gunmen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the village of Rasht.

Three hours later, withdrawing guerrillas clashed with Irish peacekeepers of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) north of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone," said UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel.

One peacekeeper was killed and another was seriously wounded in the firefight in the village of Jmaifun, north of the "security zone," Mr. Goksel said.

In Israel, an army spokesman confirmed the guerrilla raid on the SLA, saying it was mounted behind a barrage of Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets fired

on the "security zone."

He said Israeli and SLA gunmen "returned fire" and during the exchange two other Katyusha rockets fell in the "security zone" close to Israel

Saudi intelligence head meets rebel Afghan chief

ISLAMABAD (Agoecies) — Saudi Arabia's intelligence chief has met a dissident Afghan Mujahideen chief to discuss recent frostiness in long-standing ties, Mujahideen sources in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar said Monday.

They said the Saudi official, Prince Turki al Faisal, held talks on Sunday with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, fundamentalist leader of the radical Hezb-e-Islami party, a day after meeting Mr. Hekmatyar's chief rival, Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, in Islamabad.

Prince Turki has been a frequent visitor to Pakistan throughout Afghanistan's 14-year civil war when Saudi Arabia was an important backer of the various Mujahideen parties.

He flew by special plane from Peshawar to Islamabad to meet Mr. Hekmatyar, whose main base is in neighbouring Logar province southeast of Islamabad. Mujahideen sources said already cooling ties between Saudi Arabia and Mr. Hekmatyar chilled further in the last two or three weeks after Saudi Arabia switched the main focus of its support to Mr. Rabbani's interim coalition Islamic government in Kabul.

Talks focused on the Saudi policy shift, which has angered Mr. Hekmatyar, the sources said. Saudi Arabia was a major source of funds for the rebels in the war against the former Soviet-backed government in Kabul, and was particularly close to the fundamentalist Hekmatyar.

Relations between the two soured during last year's Gulf war when Mr. Hekmatyar voiced support for Iraq and was critical of Saudi policy.

Saudi Arabia and Prince Turki were involved in forging an accord between 10 Mujahideen parties in Peshawar in late April that outlined the structure for the Islamic government that took over in Kabul, a few days later.

In another development, a Hezb-run news agency reported in Peshawar that 3,000 clergy, Mujahideen commanders and tribal chieftains met in the southern city of Kandahar to demand immediate removal of the coalition government and introduction of a "true Islamic order" after nationwide elections.

The reported decision appeared to mark a deepening of ethnic divisions between the mostly Pashtun south and east and the north, which is populated by ethnic groups such as the Tajiks and the Uzbeks. Mr. Rabbani is a Tajik.

The meeting warned Afghans in the north and west not to "start adventurism in Afghanistan."

Diplomats believe Afghanistan could break up along ethnic lines now that the Mujahideen have lost their common enemy in the communist government and festering rivalries have surfaced.

Diplomats urged to return

President Rabbani Monday urged all foreign diplomats to return to his country, the Iranian news agency said.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said President Rabbani, who was talking to a meeting with foreign ambassadors in Tehran, said the government in Afghanistan is now passing through a transitional period and needs time in order to guarantee security at home.

Mr. Rabbani, who is to step down in a month when a special assembly selects new leaders, expressed confidence that the government would control problems, the news agency said.

It said Mr. Rabbani blamed the current difficulties on "thirst for power" by some parties, which he did not name.

Mr. Rabbani, in a meeting with Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Nateq Nouri, said relative security has been restored to Kabul, but regretted that the recent clashes have resulted in massive destruction in the Afghan capital, IRNA said.

The dispatch, monitored in Cyprus, said he held aid by foreign countries responsible for the internal clashes in Afghanistan, but did not refer to the name of a certain country.

Mr. Rabbani "noted that the people of Afghanistan are struggling with insufficient facilities, food and fuel and called for immediate international aid," the agency said.

Army chief escapes attack

A land mine exploded Tuesday as Afghanistan's acting army chief drove past, killing his bodyguard and injuring the commander, defection and diplomatic sources said.

General Asif Delawar suffered only minor injuries, said the sources.

No one claimed responsibility for assassination attempt but Defence Ministry sources privately blamed Hezb-e-Islami, a renegade rebel faction expelled from the interim Islamic government last month.

Kuwaiti women demand right to vote

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti women demanded the right to vote during an unprecedented appearance at a public meeting by a candidate contesting elections for an all-male parliament.

One woman stood up during the question-and-answer session at Monday night's meeting and shouted: "I'm going to vote anyway on Oct. 5 is anyone going to stop me?"

She said she had a French degree in literature. She knew that women had wider political rights abroad and demanded the same rights for herself. She did not give her name.

About 400 women, some of them veiled, sat together on one side, partitioned from about the same number of white-robed men. Before them was a panel of four speakers — two women and two men, including the candidate, Saleh Al Yasin, an independent.

It was a remarkable event for Kuwait, where women do not have the vote and are barred from standing as candidates in the Oct. 5 election.

Most of the women in the audience stayed silent. Women do not normally attend election meetings — and participants said they would certainly not discuss their rights openly with menfolk.

One Kuwaiti man attending the meeting said Mr. Yasin was committing "political suicide."

One of the women on the panel, Badria Al Awadhi, also urged full political rights for women, including the vote.

"It's unusual, especially to speak in front of men and women together," she told Reuters after the open air meeting in a Kuwait City suburb. She said it was the first time women speakers had addressed a meeting on women's political rights during the campaign.

She called on the new parliament to change the electoral law to allow women to vote and added in jest: "I can put that motion very easily if they want."

A total of 81,400 men aged at least 21 who can trace their roots in the emirate before 1920 have registered to vote, representing some 14 per cent of Kuwait's 600,000 nationals.

The emirate's oil wealth has triggered the frustration felt by some women, people at the meeting said. Some women had been educated abroad where they say that women enjoyed greater political rights.

But many Kuwaiti men, especially the older generation and hard-core Islamists, insist on sticking to tradition.

A leading Islamic group contesting the election, the Islamic Constitutional Movement which is fighting five of the 50 seats, says it opposes granting women the right to stand as candidates and that it is too early to allow them to vote.

Asked whether she believed the next session of parliament would endorse women's right to vote, Ms. Awadhi, a prominent lawyer and leading campaigner for women's political rights in Kuwait, said: "I am a little pessimistic. It depends what kind of members of parliament we are going to have."

Diplomats say traditionalists and Islamic candidates may win a significant number of seats in the new parliament.

Several women's pressure groups are seeing the vote for women in Kuwait, notably the Al Fatah (Girls) club, which says it has 1,200 members.



DEPUTIES' TRIAL: Journalists and members in Marks to enter the court where the trial of the public wait outside the State Security Court. Deputies Luthi Shabbat and Yacoub Qarrash began Tuesday (see page 1)

Bahrain plans consultative assembly

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain will announce plans soon to set up a national assembly giving its people some say in running the country, diplomats said Tuesday.

The government was expected to announce the step — which follows similar moves towards democracy in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — during late November or early December, they said.

Officials declined to comment but the issue has been widely discussed in Bahrain since the Gulf war ended in February last year.

Bahrain's first constituent assembly was elected in 1973. It was dissolved two years later after disputes between conservative and left-leaning members.

Diplomats said the new assembly would have 30 seats, like the

old parliament, but all members would be appointed by the government and it would have advisory but not legislative powers like its predecessor.

They said the assembly had been carefully considered following dialogue between prominent Bahrainis and the ruling Al Khalifa family.

Kuwait will hold its first elections since its parliament was dissolved in 1966 next week. Saudi Arabia is moving ahead with plans to establish its first consultative assembly.

Diplomats said prospective Bahraini candidates had been approached by senior government officials and up to 10 former members of parliament might be included in the new assembly.

It was also expected to include

many Shiite Bahrainis — possibly nearly half of its members — to reflect as closely as possible the composition of Bahrain's population.

More than half of around 350,000 Bahrainis belong to the Shiite sect of Islam dominant in Iran.

Political parties are banned but lawyers say Bahrainis have enjoyed greater political freedoms since the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988, particularly after Tehran's neutral stand in the crisis over Kuwait.

At least 10 Bahrainis have returned since the emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, issued decrees in April and June 1992 pardoning more than 120 activists in self-imposed exile.

Arab fighters said to join Kashmir rebels

ISLAMABAD (R) — Some Arab veterans of the Afghan war have joined Muslim militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, Kashmiri militant sources in Pakistan said Monday.

They said a few Afghan and Pakistani volunteers were also helping militants in a "jihad" (holy war) against India, which rules two-thirds of Kashmir. The remaining third is controlled by Pakistan.

"They may be less than 100 or even less than 50," an official of the Hezb-ul-Mujahideen group said of the number of foreign

fighters in Kashmir. Pakistan's Dawn newspaper carried a report Monday quoting some fighters as saying 300 to 400 Arab guerrillas had sneaked into Indian Kashmir in support of Hezb-ul-Mujahideen, and that 200 Afghans went there last year.

"The figure is greatly exaggerated," Hezb official Masood told Reuters by telephone from the Pakistan-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir capital of Muzaffargarh.

"We cannot deny their presence, but they are not many. There is a risk in taking them there," he said.

Sources in the rival Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said they had information of a few foreign volunteers.

Kashmiri sources have said in recent weeks that thousands of Arabs who helped Islamic guerrillas in Afghanistan were seeking jobs in the region in Kashmir.

Mr. Masood said the Kashmir border between Pakistan and India was more difficult to cross than the Afghan border, adding that the militants had to keep Pakistan's standpoint in view.

Iraq nerve agents at destruction site — U.N.

BAGHDAD (R) — Virtually all Iraq's chemical nerve agents to be scrapped under terms of the Gulf war ceasefire have been stockpiled at a plant for destruction, a U.N. inspector said Tuesday.

Bernhard Brunner, the Swiss head of the latest U.N. inspection team in Iraq, said he did not believe the Iraqis had more chemical munitions to transfer to Muthana, a site 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad where some destruction facilities are ready and others are being built.

"We've seen that most of the chemical munitions which have been transported to Muthana for destruction," Mr. Brunner said before leaving Iraq for Bahrain.

He said some 30,000 to 40,000 bombs, rockets and shells from sites throughout the country have been stockpiled at Muthana while some weapons were destroyed where they were.

"Some destruction of chemical weapons has been done by the Iraqis on site. There are some leftovers and there has to be a decision of what is going to be done to them," Mr. Brunner added.

In a letter last March to the U.N. special commission overseeing Iraq weapons dismantlement, Baghdad said it had unilaterally destroyed 925 aerial bombs, 45 warheads for scud

missiles and 19,000 rockets. Mr. Brunner said destruction of Iraq's nerve gas munitions was in progress at Muthana but he could not predict when it would be completed. The special commission said earlier this month that getting rid of chemical weapons could take six to 12 months.

"I could see that the destruction process has started now and is going on pretty well," Mr. Brunner said.

Asked whether the destruction plants at Muthana were still being tested or were fully operational, Mr. Brunner said: "It is half-way still tests and half-way real destruction."

"Tremendous progress has been made in the last months. But there is a lot of work to do down there," he said.

He said a plant to neutralise nerve agents was operational but one to incinerate mustard gas still needed further work.

"Now we are at the end of our inspection. Our objective has been to visit distant sites in Iraq where chemical weapons are or have been destroyed," he added.

Mr. Brunner used German-made helicopters to travel around the country. He flew to the West's air exclusion zones in the north and the south and inspected sites in the far west of Iraq close to the Jordanian borders.

Turkey ready to aid cross-border operation to help Iraqi Kurds

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Turkey's foreign minister said Monday that his country was ready to help an emergency cross-border winter relief operation for Iraqi Kurds if it becomes necessary.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf met Thursday with the U.N. under-secretary for humanitarian affairs, Jan Eliasson, and indicated Iraq has no objections to the winter aid programme for the Kurds.

Mr. Eliasson told Mr. Sahaf that the programme for the Kurds could go ahead only if the United Nations ships aid to the entire country, not just the northern Kurdish zone.

Mr. Eliasson and Mr. Sahaf were to renew their negotiations Tuesday evening.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mehmet Cetin told reporters Monday that if an extensive cross-border shipment of blankets, tents, food, fuel and medicine becomes necessary, his country will give its full cooperation.

"Turkey is ready to cooperate as far as the humanitarian aid is concerned, to the Kurdish people in northern Iraq," he said.

"As you know, since the beginning, Turkey was very helpful and cooperative as far as humanitarian aid to northern Iraq is concerned," he said.

He said that when the Iraqi Kurdish rebellion failed last year, half a million Kurds fled north to the border area with Turkey.

"Sixty thousand came to Turkey, and still 28,000 are living in Turkey," he said.

But on a related issue, Mr. Cetin declined to indicate whether Turkey will renew the agreement that allows the United States, Britain and France to operate from southern Turkey to help the Kurds and monitor Iraq.

Mr. Cetin said Turkey's parliament will have to act on the agreement, and he said public confidence in his country, the United Nations and the Western allies is eroding because of a perceived lack of response to the plight of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Buffets, bribery and buffoon are talk of Kuwait election

By Neil Macfarquhar
The Associated Press

KUWAIT — As the Kuwaiti parliamentary campaign gathers steam at sunset four young male voters fan out across the city armed with beepers and mobile phones, looking for a candidate to fulfill their dreams.

On a good night, they'll find one serving shrimp.

"Now we are concentrating on the rich neighbourhoods. In those outer districts where the bedouins live it's all rice and meat, no buffet," said Hameed Ibrahim, 27.

The smell of brisede lamb and delicate pastries wafted over the crowd from a tent behind the pro-government candidate droning on about national unity. Ibrahim ignored him.

He came at speed to the tent ablaze with silver tureens after he got five quick beeps on his pager, a "banquet alert" from one of the four friends. The crowd expands

as the candidate winds down. Every speech ends with the same sentence: "Peace be upon you, with the blessings and mercy of the Lord."

The first syllable starts a general stampede for the food.

The price of sheep has skyrocketed from \$100 per head to \$250, with some candidates switching to camel meat as a cheaper alternative.

Asian labourers serve the meals and stay up all night putting up election posters.

Once these meals constituted the entire campaign. But the seven-month Iraqi occupation that ended in February 1991 changed that somewhat.

"Now 50 per cent go because they want to feed their brains and 50 per cent because they want to see what is served on the buffet," said political science Professor Abdullatif Al Shagheh.

Islamic-oriented campaigns are all the rage, even if no one comes up with a specific plat-

form for the electorate of about 81,500 men.

The largest constituency is 7,130 men. A one vote difference can bring defeat.

"Service candidates" once proudly ran on the promise of getting constituents government jobs and clearing red tape. This year they found they have lost phrases about parliament like "government watchdogs" into their palaver or risk losing.

Even the bedouin tribesmen, who used to send 30 bedouin supporters of the ruling Al Sabah family to the 50-seat parliament, are packing speeches about using the assembly's full powers under the constitution to approve major government decisions.

But some grouse about killjoy candidates trying to keep brokers from packaging their votes in groups of 10 for \$3,500 apiece.

Nobody wants to talk about it openly and risk the seven-year sentence for vote trading. It is believed ran-

tant, and works like this: The 10 go vote together. The first voter takes the official ballot behind a curtain, but emerges to drop a blank white paper into the box.

He secretly takes the official ballot outside to a campaign representative, who checks his candidate's name.

The second bought voter then drops that ballot into the box and splits his own out for the third and on down the line. So the amount of blank white paper in any box indicates the extent of vote buying.

Most campaigns wind down around midnight.

Eater "the alternative," Mohammad Rashid Al Hifiti starts at midnight and goes until 4 a.m.

His tent is on a strip dubbed "democracy row" by the candidates because of the district's heated race among 19 candidates for the two seats.

Wags call it "pyramids row" after the infamous Cairo, Egypt, thoroughfare lined

with garish belly dance bordellos.

The Kuwait version deadends at the darkened patch of desert where a U.S. army patriot missile battery is in constant vigil against possible Iraqi attack.

Mr. Hifiti, an agriculture department employee, just answers questions.

Should women be allowed to vote?

"Let's make 45 the voting age for women. No woman will admit she is over 45 so none will vote."

Should the government raise its marriage payments over \$14,000?

"Whaddaya wanna marry Sophia Loren?"

The alternative won the hearts of the foreign community by saying he would try to legalise alcohol. One U.S. banker even considered exchanging guaranteed votes for President George Bush, whom the Kuwaitis idolise, for Mr. Hifiti votes.

THE MOURNING OF

Mr. Robert L. (Bob) Prather, Jr.,

age 62, passed away September 29, in Amman after being sick for 16 months with cancer. Born and raised in the United States, Mr. Prather served the Kingdom of Jordan 18 years in the areas of telecommunications. He was project manager for GETSCO in the Public Security Directorate Land Mobile Communication System. He was technical advisor to the director general, Special Communications Commission, Ministry of Defence. As director of training for the Jordan Communications Systems, he served as chief of operations and maintenance, training Jordanian and foreign engineers and technicians on the job. Prior to this Mr. Prather was field project engineer on TELCOM's initial Wideband System in Jordan. During this time he was responsible for communications in the Royal Palace. He was active in his Christian faith, serving both the international and national communities in Jordan. He is survived by his wife, Margaret W. Prather, one son, William J. Prather, one daughter, Selena Schopfer, four grandchildren, his father Robert L. Prather Sr. and two sisters: Mrs. Patricia Solomon and Mrs. Peggy Wisniewski.

The funeral will be held at the church cemetery in Amman, Um Al Heran, Wednesday, September 30, 1992, at 11 a.m.

Condolences offered at the residence of the deceased for three days.

P.O. Box 930101, Amman
Tel.: 685326

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel.: 77211-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Musique de Cour
19:00 News in French
19:15 Interpique
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Wednesday form
21:30 Chuso
22:00 News in English
22:20 Bangkok Hilton

PRAYER TIMES

05:04 Fajr
06:22 (Sunrise) Daba
12:27 Dhur
15:53 'Asr
18:23 Maghreb
19:20 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switell, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 626543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775204
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 653226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675491

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be dry and sunny and another rise in temperature will take place. Winds will be easterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 16 / 30
Aqaba 20 / 26
Dahlat 14 / 32
Jordan Valley 19 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakri Talah 888880
Dr. Bekir Badir 849362
Dr. Farouk Nour 784680
Dr. Zein Zagloul 638591
Pins pharmacy 661912
Ford pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 670335
Nasrallah pharmacy 633672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644943
Shuqran pharmacy 637660
Nasrallah pharmacy 626562
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majied Mousa 275393
Al Sharran pharmacy 773825

ZARQA:
Dr. Ibrahim Moustafa 983417
Ramil pharmacy 995119

KARAK:
Dr. Qasim Mousa 532170
Ma'ab pharmacy 532170

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
First Aid 811228
Blood Bank 751211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 860390
Public Security Department 698021
Hotel Complaints 630800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Abdull Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 813615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mathias, J. Amman 636140
Pakdine, Shamsi 641714
Shamsi Hospital 69131
University Hospital 648445
Al-Masdar Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdull 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdull 641646
Islamic, Al-Mahajira 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511126
Army, Marja 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60240350
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09905601
Im Sam Hospital 09985732
Al Yaman Modern Hospital 09990

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Botswana

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to President of Botswana, congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Botswana people further progress and prosperity.

Princess Wijdan opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Royal Jordanian Society for Fine Arts Princess Wijdan Ali Monday opened at Alia Art Gallery a plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash. The 10-day exhibition includes 20 oil plates and 42 paintings on zinc and copper depicting social life in Jordan and the Arab World.

Sharif meets Palestinian journalists

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday received a delegation representing Arab journalists in the occupied territories. Mr. Sharif reviewed with the delegation members the difficult conditions journalists are facing in the occupied Arab territories. President of the Arab Journalists Association Naim Al Toubassi briefed the minister on the difficulties facing the association and its role in safeguarding the national identity. Mr. Sharif also discussed with the delegation means of widening scopes of cooperation between the association and the Jordan Press Association (JPA). The meeting was attended by JPA President Salman Al Qudah.

Samra opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra Tuesday opened an art exhibition by Dr. Ali Al Ghoni, held at Baladina Art Gallery. On display at the exhibition are 100 exhibits. This exhibition is the 10th held by Dr. Ghoni since 1956.

Health minister to attend WHO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh Thursday leaves for Alexandria at the head of a health delegation to take part in the 39th session of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation (WHO) East Mediterranean Regional Office, which will convene there Saturday. The five-day session will discuss the health policy in the region's countries, and a report on the health conditions of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

JVA head leaves for Rome

AMMAN (Petra) — The Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Abdul Aziz Wishah left Amman for Rome to take part in the preparatory meeting of the Conference for Ministers of Water in the Mediterranean countries. The two-day meeting, which opens Monday, will discuss the draft charter on water in Mediterranean countries, as well as technical cooperation among countries of the region.

Amalreh in Oman to prepare cultural week

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Culture's Secretary General Muhammad Naji Amalreh Tuesday left for Muscat on a several day visit to Oman, during which he will supervise the final preparations for the Jordanian cultural week, due to be held there Saturday. The week includes lectures by Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra, and Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqour. The week also includes poetry readings by a number of Jordanian poets and folkloric performances.

Jordan, Lebanon discuss trade ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Lebanese experts Tuesday discussed means of cooperation between the two countries. They also held talks over commodities to be exchanged between both countries. The two sides, meeting under the umbrella of the joint Jordanian-Lebanese Committee, also discussed means of renewing a trade agreement that was concluded between the two countries in 1965. Later Tuesday, head of the Lebanese side to the talks Numan Abu Shekha and the delegation accompanying him visited Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab, where they were received by its Director General Fayez Suheimat who briefed them on the estate's objectives.

King Hussein, Prince Mohammad bridges reopen

AMMAN (Petra) — Traffic from and to King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges on the River Jordan will resume normally as of Wednesday (today). The bridges were partially closed on Sunday and all traffic came to a halt on Monday and Tuesday, according to Public Security Department officials.

Jordanian, Egyptian associations hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Administrative Committee of the Association of Workers in Banks and Insurance Companies met Monday with a visiting delegation representing the Egyptian Association of Workers in Banks, Insurance Companies and Financial Institutions, agreed with them on concluding a protocol of cooperation and coordination, particularly in the area of exchange of visits. The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral relations, and to hold courses in Cairo for members of the Jordanian Association of Workers in Banks.

Ensour visits Salt Chamber of Commerce

SALT (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour met Tuesday in Salt with the president and members of the city's chamber of commerce. The chamber president and members briefed Dr. Ensour on the chamber conditions, services it offers to merchants, its role in activating the commercial sector and problems facing it. During the meeting, they stressed the need to establish an industrial city in Salt to serve industrialists and businessmen as well as establishing a central vegetables market. They also called for authenticating certificates of origin for factories located in Salt at the city's chamber instead of Amman Chamber of Commerce.

Khatib elected chairman of energy panel

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Energy Council, which met in Madrid recently, has elected former Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Al Khatib as chairman of the Committee on Energy Issues in Developing Countries. Dr. Khatib will serve as chairman in the period 1992-95.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

- Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramullah, Nafisa Hifni and Dodi Taban at the National Gallery, Jabal Lawdich Park.
- Art exhibition entitled "Enigma" by Jordanian architect Murad Bashmash at the British Council.
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at Alia Art Gallery.
- Handcraft exhibition by artist Rawabi Abu Ghazaleh-Silawi at the Islamic Bank Exhibition Centre, Dahlat Al Rawdha.
- Exhibition of small paintings by Jordanian artist Ali Al Ghoni at Baladina Art Gallery.

Theatre

- Arabic children's play entitled "John and the Donkey" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7 p.m.

Queen inspects NHF project in the south

GREIGRA, Maan Governorate (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday patronized a ceremony for distributing land deeds to families benefiting from Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Quality of Life Project in this southern village.

Beneficiaries will be able to utilize the plots (each 1.5 donums in area) to build houses, plant home gardens and raise domesticated animals, in line with NHF's philosophy of helping families in rural areas become more self-reliant and self-sufficient. Twenty heads of families, representing 238 eligible families received deeds from the Queen in the ceremony.

Queen Noor listened to welcoming speeches by representatives of the Local Development Council, the Jordan Valley Authority, and the village's Mother and Child Club. The Queen was also briefed on the progress of the NHF Quality of Life Project in the southern area of Jordan by the project director.

Meeting reviews means of increasing agricultural output

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day meeting started at the University of Jordan Tuesday to examine further means for promoting cooperation between the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and Jordanian agricultural institutions.

Minister Fayez Khasawneh told the meeting that the two sides have a common interest which helps to boost cooperation aimed at further promoting agricultural development.

Dr. Khasawneh expressed hope that the meeting will pave the ground for a comprehensive plan aimed at promoting agricultural research and the transfer of agricultural technology to the Kingdom.

Dr. Robert Booth, ICARDA assistant director general, made an address at the opening session, underlining the importance of cooperation between Jordan and ICARDA to promote agricultural development.

Dr. Naeir Haddad, regional research programme coordinator for ICARDA's West Asia Office in Amman, reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and ICARDA in agricultural fields. "It is hoped that the present meeting would further boost and

During her visit, Queen Noor met with members of the local community as she visited a girls school, the local health centre and homes where poultry and goat raising schemes have been initiated within the framework of NHF Quality of Life Project. The Queen also toured sites to be used for building a kindergarten and residential units in the village. Her Majesty was accompanied in her visit by NHF President, Mrs. Ina'm Mufti.

The Quality of Life Project was launched by NHF to improve the quality of life in rural communities and to encourage people in various parts of Jordan to initiate economic projects that increase individual family incomes, promote a more wholesome village environment and raise family living standards in the health, social and cultural fields. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Ministry of Health, the Promising Hands Society and other institutions.

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Jordan to get \$77.5 million grant from EC

BRUSSELS (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday signed four agreements with the European Community in Brussels under which the country will get a grant totalling 59.5 million European Currency Units (ECU) equivalent to \$77.5 million.

The grant is to help Jordan finance a number of its development projects and to improve its balance of payments.

Under the first agreement, 50 million ECUs will be used to prop up the Jordanian balance of payments. Of this sum, 40 million ECUs come from an earlier allocation of 300 ECUs earmarked by the EC for helping countries in the Mediterranean zone to carry out economic reform programmes.

The other 10 million ECUs will come from allocations earlier earmarked for Jordan under the fourth protocol signed by the EC and Jordan last June.

According to a statement issued after the signing ceremony the 50 million ECUs will be used for the purchase of European-made products.

Under the second agreement, the EC pledges to offer Jordan's Development and Employment Fund (DEF) a sum of four million ECUs. The loan will come from what is left of allocations earmarked in the second and third protocols signed between the EC and Jordan. The four-million sum will be used by the DEF to ease negative consequences resulting from the implementation of the economic restructuring programme agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The DEF normally uses the funds to create jobs and to grant soft loans to individuals and institutions to start income-generating projects, and reduce the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom.

Under the third agreement, the EC is granting Jordan two million ECUs to come from allocations in the third protocol. The two million ECUs will be used in financing desertification programmes implemented by the University of Jordan's faculty of Agriculture in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The fourth agreement provides for the EC to offer Jordan a grant of 3.5 million ECUs to finance a scientific and technological programme undertaken by the Higher Council for Science and Technology. The project aims at promoting research programmes in Jordan's universities.

The agreements were signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and the EC commissioner.

Rescue drill conducted at airport

AMMAN (Petra) — A rescue drill was organised at the Queen Alia International Airport Tuesday to provide training for civil defence men in rescue operations.

The drill involved a rescue operation of passengers on an airliner which supposedly sustained damage while on the runway. The drill was conducted in order to test the readiness and capabilities of civil defence men in an emergency at the airport, according to the Civil Defence Department (CDD).

Personnel from the CDD and the Public Security Department (PSD), Royal Jordanian (RJ) services, the security unit at the airport, and units from the Health Ministry and Royal Jordanian Airforce took part in the drill.

Assistant Airport Director Mr. Fawaz Bisharat said that fire engines, and ambulances headed for the scene of the incident and took part in rescue operations.

King receives sixth grader; celebrations of his return continue

AMMAN (Petra) — Zainab Abdul Karim Al Ghuwairi fulfilled her dream of meeting with His Majesty King Hussein who received her at the Royal Court and accepted her congratulations for his safe return to Jordan.

Zainab, a student at the sixth elementary class, expressed her love for the King by reciting poetry verses. She had fasted for a whole day until her wish came true.

Meanwhile, various governments continued their celebrations of the King's return.

In the city of Mafrqa, students, scouts and notables, led by the governor, marched through the decorated streets, chanting songs and national songs and carrying portraits of the King.

Later a huge rally was addressed by prominent figures and deputies from the Mafrqa Governorate.

In the city squares and public gardens, national dances (dabkeh) were organised and people gathered in huge tents pitched up to hold the celebrations.

In Salt, local residents held



Residents of Karak Governorate Tuesday held a public rally to celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's safe return home (Petra photo)

dabkeh dances in the streets and scouts and students organised marches to express their joy over the King's safe return home.

The main celebration in the city was organised at the Princess Rahmah Social Service Community College in Allan area near Salt.

In Tafleeh, in southern Jordan, celebrations continued Tuesday.

Conflict over representation continues to divide writers

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian writers are still unable to consolidate under one umbrella, with a conflict between two groups claiming legitimacy to represent them driving the country's men of letters further apart.

"Our association is the origin," says Fakhri Kawar, president of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA). "It enjoys international recognition and it is the one with the right to stay."

The second organisation, the Jordanian Writers Union (JWU), which was established in early 1987, also insists that it is the legitimate representative of Jordanian writers, stressing the importance of its role in the cultural movement.

"The real legitimacy of any cultural institution is based on the recognition it has in the country where it is established," said Hani Al Amad JWU president, who is also the dean of the Department of Literature at the University of Applied Sciences.

The JWA, founded in 1974, was dissolved by a military order in 1986 which charged that the association served as a "forum for political activities."

An official statement issued at the time said that "while the purpose behind establishing the association was to promote literary and cultural movements in Jordan, the association went beyond its aims, and its members used it as a meeting place to serve their own interests."

In early 1987, the JWA was replaced by the JWU, which grouped many Jordanian writers. In 1989, the association resumed its activities when the decision to close it was repeated.

"The fact that the concerned authorities did not take any measures regarding the union's presence, then they allowed the association to reopen created the current dispute," said Bader Abdul Haq, a writer and a JWA member.

Twenty-three members out of 55 who joined the union when it was established returned to the association later while 30 others stayed as JWU members.

One member passed away and another one resigned. At present, the association groups 327 members and the union 160. Several attempts to merge the two have not been fruitful.

"There is nothing that stands in the way of working out a solution that would lead to cooperation and mutual understanding between the two parts," said Mr. Kawar a deputy at the Lower House of Parliament. "However, we are ready to negotiate on one basis that is the association's legitimacy," he said.

"We are looking forward to any prospect of unity," responded Dr. Al Amad, who at the time the union was established was Minister of Culture's under-secretary. "However, he said, a neutral committee that would be able to combine the two associations in one has to be set up."

The conflict between the two groups recently assumed new proportions over differences to host a conference for Arab writers. The JWU insists that current circumstances in the Arab World do not permit the participation of all invited delegations in the gathering, arguing that convening the conference at this time will consolidate the split in the cultural movement in Jordan.

"We have already demanded postponement since a full success of the conference cannot be accomplished without reaching out a kind of unity," insisted Dr. Al Amad.

On the other hand, JWA does not see any reason for postponement. "Invitations have already been sent and contacts with all delegations are underway," said Mr. Kawar. "We also regard the kind of pretexts given by the union for postponing the conference as one way of creating obstacles," he said.

Until now, only two delegations out of 14 — that of Yemen and the United Arab Emirates — have accepted to participate along with five other individual Arab writers out of 40. Preparations for the conference, in which 12 academic institutions will take part, have already been completed.

"A conference which 12 academic institutions are organising cannot be held in a tense atmosphere," said Dr. Al Amad. "I sincerely hope that new efforts will be made in this direction to make the conference a success."

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ANNOUNCEMENT
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The issuing of a new JD10 and JD5 Banknotes.

As of the 1st of October 1992, the Central Bank of Jordan will put into circulation two denominations from the 3rd series, (JD 10) and (JD 5) banknotes, in conformity with the law of the Central Bank of Jordan and the Bylaw of the Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (28) year 1992.

The new notes will circulate alongside the existing 2nd issue notes and both shall simultaneously remain in circulation as legal tender.

Following are the specifications of the banknotes:

SPECIFICATIONS

Colour	Size	Back design
JD 10 Purple	74mmx149mm	A view of Al Rabad Castle
JD 5 Red	70mmx143mm	The Treasury at Petra

- The new issue banknote designs bear a new Portrait of His Majesty King Hussein.
- The banknote paper will incorporate a new watermark of His Majesty King Hussein.
- The JD 10 will incorporate a silver windowed thread, which appears as silver dashes on the front of the note or as a solid line when held up to the light.
- The JD 5 will incorporate a microprinted thread reading Central Bank of Jordan.

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Islands on the agenda

THE VIRTUAL collapse of negotiations Monday between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over the future of the island of Abu Musa and the two Tumb islands illegally seized by the former Shah of Iran in 1971 is an occasion for the reassessment of Arab-Iranian relations. It is also an opportunity for the demonstration of greater and more meaningful Arab solidarity with the Emirates over escalating feud with the Iranian regime. It is not only the responsibility of the Arab Gulf states to stand by the UAE in its open conflict with Tehran but also the duty of the entire Arab League to come to the rescue of one member state in this major test of will between the Arab World and the over ambitious leaders of Iran.

It is more than probable that Tehran is flexing its muscles in the Gulf region in the aftermath of the Gulf war in 1991 and the weakening of Iraq as an effective counterweight to Iran. The Iranian regime must have sensed that there is an Arab vacuum in the region and proceeded to apply its seemingly expansionist policy first against the three Arab islands and maybe even to more important Arab territories afterwards. Against this backdrop, the three tiny but strategic islands can serve as only appetisers for the Iranian leadership. Unless this just is checked now and checked effectively, there could be no end to Iranian ambitions against Arab rights and territories.

The submission of this dispute to the U.N. General Assembly currently holding its 1992 session in New York is not the kind of Arab response that the Arab Nation should be counting on. Much more forceful and meaningful Arab reaction is called for in conjunction with the lodging of complaints to the U.N. against the Iranian de facto annexation of the three islands. If necessary, an Arab summit could be called to discuss this and other outstanding issues.

As long as Tehran continues to disregard Arab rights over the islands, the Arab World has to close its ranks and show much more seriousness than it has been. Jordan has already voiced its unequivocal support to Abu Dhabi over this conflict and stands ready to lend all necessary backing to the UAE so as to recover its sovereignty over Abu Musa. The other Arab capitals ought to express themselves on this dispute in the clearest possible manner in order to drive home the message to Tehran that the Arab World stands united behind the Gulf Emirates not only rhetorically but tangibly as well.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday tackled the question of Iranian occupation of Arab islands in the Gulf, warning Tehran against pursuing this game with the Arabs. Tehran is under an illusion, believing that the United Arab Emirates will be left alone in its confrontation with the Iranians who are now occupying part of Arab lands, said the daily. Regardless of the current divisions among the Arab countries and despite the superficial differences in views, the Arabs are determined to stand together in the face of external threat, said the daily. The paper said that the Western powers' silence over Iran's occupation of Arab land was interpreted by observers as a reward for Tehran for supporting the aggression on Iraq last year, while other observers say that the United States has blessed this Iranian move to pave the ground for a new arms race between Iran and the Arab states which will sooner or later swallow up what has been left of Arab funds in Western banks. According to these observers, the Western countries' attitude was also motivated by the idea that Tehran could be kept under Western control if it is allowed to grab new land and if it continues to abide by the so-called new world order and its devilish system, the paper continued. The paper warned Tehran that the Western moves, which are now directed against Arab interests, could be diverted against Muslims and the Islamic World once the West has completed its mission with the Arabs. It is hoped, said the paper, that Iran would wake up to the bitter facts and stop helping the West carry out its conspiracies against Iraq and the other Arab states.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily dwelt on the Arab-Israeli peace talks and said that the negotiations, which have so far ended in deadlock, are not expected to bear fruit in next month's seventh round. Salameh Ekour referred to Palestinian leaders' recent remarks that nothing can be expected from the talks with Israel and that there is no point of following up a vicious circle. He said that as long as the Palestinians realise this fact, and since no positive step has been achieved so far, the Arab parties should reconsider their position and delay the coming talks for some time. It is common knowledge now that only Israel and President Bush are gaining something from the ongoing futile negotiations and there are calls from inside the occupied Arab lands for halting the process, said the writer. He said in the light of the situation, the PLO leaders should open the way for the 10 different Palestinian groups who oppose the negotiations to have their say, and should organise for a national conference which would focus on the whole question of negotiations.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

The talk of the dollar

THE IMPROVEMENT in the exchange rate of the American dollar over the last 10 days has wiped out all the interest differentials between the American currency on the one hand and the major currencies on the other. Jordanian and other Arab investors, who switched funds out of the dollar into these currencies during the last few months, now have a very good reason to agonise.

The exchange rates of the major currencies have been floating for a long time. The international currency markets, i.e. the Euromarkets, in which these currencies are traded, are highly competitive. To be able to invest in these markets under these conditions and without exposing themselves to a dangerous or even fatal degree of risk, institutional Arab investors must be in command of accurate information which can be provided only by sophisticated research and follow-up units which are not common place.

Some Arab and Jordanian individuals have no access even to the services and advice of specialised Arab institutional investors, partly because investing funds abroad is illegal. The result is that they stand the good possibility of incurring painful losses. At a certain point in time, some Jordanians who took the international markets not as seriously as they should, went as far as speculating in the New York Stock Exchange. Joyed and overconvinced by initial modest profits, they got more involved to be swept later by destructive losses from which they have not recuperated.

One is rightly fearful of repeating this tragic experience in the international currency markets, whether now or in the future, particularly after the devaluation of the Jordan dinar in 1988 and due to it.

Jordanian individuals now hold around \$2 billion worth abroad. Most often, they convert the money from one currency to another in a more or less haphazard way. We cannot provide them here with advice as to how they should invest their migrant savings. Most of them will not heed advice anyway. But it is worth reminding them that every currency has a circle which might be short or long. If they choose to invest their foreign currency savings in a certain currency, they must be able to afford to wait until that currency climbs to a height when selling will not involve a loss. Of course, this technique does not apply to speculators who must, anyway, face the hazards of the very risky business which they choose to undertake.

The turbulence in the international currency markets during the last two weeks must convince investors that the exchange rate (and thereby capital gains and losses) matters more than the interest rate in the longer run. However, investors who are keenly interested in earning an income from their foreign currency deposits to pay for their current expenses on a regular basis without running an exchange risk should, in our opinion, buy special drawing rights (SDRs).

In short, these SDRs form some sort of an international currency for all practical purposes. They represent, in different weights, the U.S. dollar, the Mark, Yen, Pound Sterling and the French franc. The fall in the exchange rate of one currency is partially offset by the corresponding rise in the other and the interest rate on them is always reasonable because it is almost the average interest rate on their constituent currencies. The second best is the European currency unit (ECU). However, buying the ECU is actually betting against the dollar. To our mind, the dollar will be on the rise during the next 12 months and shortly beyond.

242 but 'not an inch'

By Peretz Kidron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

There is growing unease in Israel over the way the Rabin government is handling the peace talks. Elected on the strength of promises of rapid and earnest progress towards peace with Israel's Arab neighbours, Mr. Rabin's initial denials aroused hopes. The slippery Yossi Ben Aharon, the Shamir aide who had bogged down talks with the Syrians, was replaced by Professor Itamar Rabinowitz, a suave, outgoing academic who lost little time in assuring his Syrian interlocutors that Israel regards Security Council Resolution 242 as "applicable" to their sector.

But this declaration, with its apparent promise of a land-for-peace deal in the Golan Heights, was promptly hedged around with reservations and qualifications which rendered it largely meaningless. Mr. Rabin's first priority was to cover his domestic right flank. Jewish settlers in the Golan, alarmed by Mr. Rabin's wife's declaration, soon staged a protest rally against the government's apparent intention of restoring the area to Syria. Along with the usual bevy of far-right politicians who thundered warnings about a "sell-out", the rally also featured Labour MK Avigdor Kahalani. His proclamation that there was no room to cede an inch of the Golan fell on attentive ears: the settlers were well aware of his close personal and political links with Mr. Rabin.

Not content with oblique messages through subordinates, Mr. Rabin went on to issue a stream of public statements stressing that "Israel's interpretation of 242 does not necessarily follow the precedent" of the complete evacuation of Sinai as the price of peace with Egypt. But when a delegation of Golan settlers demanded an undertaking that any peace accord with the Syrians would leave their settlements intact, Mr. Rabin refused; on another occasion, he came out with the portentous remark that "not every inch of the Golan is sacred".

Having been involved in extensive dealings with then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during a previous term as prime minister, Mr. Rabin seems to subscribe to Mr. Kissinger's canon of "constructive obfuscation" in international diplomacy. After dashing optimism about an imminent breakthrough in the talks with Syria, Mr. Rabin again raised hopes when he praised the Syrian delegation for its "openness" in the recent round of talks, noting their "greater willingness to hold businesslike discussions". With that, he expressed the conviction that the Syrians have yet to display all their cards, "just as we have not revealed ours... we too have yet to disclose what price we are prepared to pay in return for full peace."

Although seeming to imply that he is merely holding out for the best deal he can get for Israel, Mr. Rabin must realise that he cannot hold his cards to his chest indefinitely: sooner or later, he will have to choose between placating the Golan settlers and coming to terms with the Syrians. He cannot do both.

Playing a double game

Above all, Mr. Rabin's double game stands out in relation to the Palestinians. In his inaugural speech and subsequently, Mr. Rabin referred to the plight of the Palestinians, expressing an apparently heartfelt desire to see their problems solved. But the prime minister's true feelings came to light recently when he blurted out that he "would like to wake up one morning and find that Gaza has sunk into the sea". It was a shameful utterance, and Mr. Rabin's critics wondered



publicly how the prime minister would react were some prominent Palestinian to voice a similar wish with regard to Tel Aviv. Dismissed Rabin aides made desperate efforts to soften the impact of his statement, claiming that he had been misquoted, or that his words were uttered "in jest".

However, Mr. Rabin's best defence was his next sentence stating his awareness that Gaza was not about to subside into the waves "and therefore, a solution has to be found". Taken together, the two parts of Mr. Rabin's declaration probably offer the best interpretation of his motives: his sporadic expressions of sympathy notwithstanding, he is sympathetically indifferent to the Palestinians and their sufferings; however, since "the Palestinian problem" has become an Israeli problem, he is resolved, out of enlightened national self-interest, to resolve the conflict.

A reflection of Shamir?

While by no means trivial, Mr. Rabin's gestures have nonetheless preserved the crushing burden of restrictions imposed by the occupation regime; above all, they preserve Israel's exclusive prerogative to make all the vital decisions affecting day-to-day life in the occupied territories. In one show of Israeli goodwill, 800 Palestinian detainees have been released from prison; but some 10,000 still remain in jails and detention centres. The occupation authorities have sent bulldozers to unblock several dozen roads and alleyways previously barricaded in retribution for infidels attacks; but hundreds of other thoroughfares remain closed, to the great inconvenience of the local population.

And while the much-trumpeted "freeze" on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories has failed to halt construction of thousands of housing units designed to attract further settlers, there is no

sign of any official willingness to permit the rebuilding of hundreds of homes demolished as collective punishment for the families of suspected Palestinian "terrorists". Such steps of genuine conciliation would cross the narrow limits Mr. Rabin has laid down for "goodwill gestures".

Mr. Rabin is reported to have further limited "gestures" up his sleeve. It is rumoured that the Israeli peace delegation will soon proclaim the abrogation of some of the more irksome of the 2,000 military decrees which regulate the daily life of the Palestinian population. But while such a move towards liberalisation would be good for Israel's international image, it would remain a unilateral act, with Israel reserving the exclusive right of selecting the laws to be removed. It would not bring the Palestinians a single step nearer to their cherished goal of controlling their own destiny.

Mr. Rabin's repeated pledges of an autonomy agreement within "six to nine months", and his predictions that the Palestinians will hold elections for an "autonomous council" early in 1993, project an apparent optimism about the feasibility of a deal. But his refusal to take the necessary steps for progress towards those goals reflect either an abysmal misunderstanding of Palestinian aspirations or a wish to see the talks break down under circumstances which will allow the blame to be placed on the Palestinians.

The zigzags of government policy are drawing criticism from its own supporters. Mervin Benvenisti of Meretz, Labour's main coalition partner, recently accused Mr. Rabin of "leading negotiations to a dead end". Urging the government to "act upon the logic" of Labour's election platform, Mr. Benvenisti warned it against "seeking (Arab) scapegoats or an ally". Unless the Labour government acts on its avowed principles, Mr. Benvenisti predicts "the growing impression that Labour and Likud are one and the same."

The gap between word and deed

On the home front the government continues to project an image of freshness, contrasting with the jaded passivity of the ousted Likud regime. But behind the air of youthful initiative, observers note an ominous gap between word and deed.

The issue sparked a war of words, with the Histadrut leadership waging a bitter rear-guard action against what it perceived as union-bashing. Recognising the hollowness of Histadrut threats to cut its links with the Labour Party, the ministers held firm initially, threatening to reduce the sick fund to bankruptcy and place it in receivership. But the verbal thunder culminated in anti-climax: it was the government that backed down. While the Histadrut offered the bare minimum in cosmetic reforms, Kuper Holim is to get the promised aid. Cynical Israelis struggled, then, in the conviction that the Rabin government, like its Likud predecessors, will always place party profit above sound national interest.

There is a similar failure to come through on Labour pledges to Israel's Arab citizens, who comprise some 15 per cent of the population. In his inaugural speech, Mr. Rabin made eloquent and apparently sincere reference to "44 years of discrimination" against the Arab minority. Palestinian Israelis were heartened when official experts conceded the urgent need for massive government financing to bring the sorely neglected infrastructure of Arab towns and villages up to the standards of neighbouring Jewish communities. But of the \$400m needed, the sum ultimately allotted for the current year was a mere \$30m, and even that was forthcoming only after Arab municipal leaders staged a two-week sit-down strike outside the prime minister's office — Middle East International.

If I nod off during the campaign, do not wake me up

By George F. Will

WASHINGTON — Trollope's political novels have been called ideal reading for a lazy weekend because if a breeze blows over a few pages while you nap, never mind, plunge back in. The narrative moves at such a measured pace that nothing much will have been missed. This presidential campaign may now be like that. Its themes are clear. A Democrat more liberal than he wants to seem, and a Republican less conservative than he wants to seem, are leading parties whose differences have narrowed, and whose ranges of politically possible policies are narrow.

Liberalism developed when liberty was threatened by the forces of order — state or church. Today people feel more threatened by disorder. Modern American liberalism developed to redress a perceived imbalance between anemic government and the surging power of entities and forces in industrial society. Now that (since October) government jobs outnumber manufacturing jobs in the United States, an insufficiency of government is not seen as the problem.

The Democratic Party's change of mind — its movement towards the centre — reflects recognition that it cannot win the presidency by changing the composition of the electorate. That is, it cannot win by mobilising non-voters among the poor and minorities. The political scientist Ray Teixeira of the Brookings Institution calculates that if turnouts by blacks, Hispanics and poor whites had each been 20 per cent higher in every state George Bush won in 1988, Michael Dukakis still would have lost by 102 electoral votes.

Over the last 30 years America's political centre has shifted, to the disadvantage of Democrats. Watergate and Vietnam caused an erosion of confidence in government. The internationalisation of economic life has weakened the power of governments. The mobility of money, and businesses inhibits governments, because wealth can flee currencies threatened by inflation or judiciousness, where growth is slow or government is meddling.

So parties whose promises depend on strong government are decreasingly plausible. Furthermore, long recessions and slow growth increase individual anxiety and decrease social solidarity, thereby weakening society's support for collective actions. But aspects of both economic

vigor and its absence can help Democrats. The boom of the 1980s was unsettling to many people. While the U.S. economy added 19 million net new jobs, Fortune 500 corporations shrank by 4 million jobs. Rapid change generates stress, and thus generates supporters for a liberal party that equates any social distress with "victimisation" and a failure of government.

The Bush recession was especially unsettling, for three reasons. First, it came after the long — 92 month — Reagan expansion, which had convinced people that business cycles are products of government mistakes that government should know how to avoid. Second, Mr. Bush's recession came at the end of a low-saving decade, when people felt particularly vulnerable. Third, it came when the white-collar component of the work force was larger than ever. The recession involved much pruning of middle management jobs, so articulate and assertive components of the electorate (including journalists) were anxious.

The weakening of social solidarity, the erosion of confidence in government and the increase in anxiety have made the issue of taxation paramount. During World War II an Irving Berlin lyric was:

"You see those bombers in the sky? Rockefeller helped to build them."

So did I. In war, Americans were shoulder-to-shoulder. Today they are throwing elbows, especially about taxation. George the Implausible is promising a tax cut that Congress will not deliver, to be balanced by spending cuts his own party will not countenance. Bill Clinton promises to build a New Jerusalem by squeezing millionaires until they squeak.

But considering that a hefty \$4 trillion will be spent on private consumption this year, it is odd for conservatives to argue that any tax increase Congress is apt to impose on individuals will radically reshape the economy. It is equally implausible for liberals to say that Mr. Clinton's policy (management efficiencies, government spending to increase growth, and never a discouraging word for the middle class) will alter the deficit that paralyses and disgraces government.

So if you nap for now, you will have no trouble picking up the thread of this year's by-now familiar political narrative — Washington Post.

Perot reemergence scrambles race for the presidency

By Irwin Arieff
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Seven months ago, a little-known billionaire with a Texas twang and protruding ears said on a late-night TV talk show that he might run for president if the public was interested.

By early June, Ross Perot was ahead of the two main contenders in the opinion polls. Five weeks later, he dropped out, enraging supporters and bewildering his rivals.

Now, just two months after that, Mr. Perot says he made a mistake and might reenter the race.

Mr. Perot's possible comeback is the latest twist in a presidential campaign in which the unexpected has become the norm.

A little over a year ago, incumbent Republican George Bush looked invincible.

Now it seems his campaign can do no right. No matter what he has tried, opinion polls show he has failed to narrow the strong lead enjoyed by Democrat Bill Clinton since July.

Nine months ago, the pundits wrote Mr. Clinton's political obituary amid controversy over his sex life and his avoidance of military service during the Vietnam war.

Now, though the Republicans still hammer away at those issues, polls show that for voters, distaste for Mr. Bush's handling of the economy appears to overwhelm any doubts they may still entertain about Mr. Clinton's character.

one of them instead of running himself.

The expectation is that Mr. Perot will reenter the race regardless, if for no other reason than to promote his goal of cutting the federal budget deficit.

But Mr. Perot has never been one to be bound by the conventional wisdom.

New polls out over the weekend show that, at this point in the run-up to the November 3 election, his reentry would have no impact on the outcome.

Mr. Clinton maintains his comfortable lead over Mr. Bush with Mr. Perot in or out of the race, separate newsmagazine and CNN Time magazine polls have found.

The Time/CNN poll further found large numbers of voters holding negative feelings about Mr. Perot, with 25 per cent viewing him favourably and 46 per cent with an unfavourable impression.

By comparison, Mr. Clinton was viewed favourably by 50 per cent and negatively by 34 per cent while 43 looked on Mr. Bush favourably and 45 per cent negatively.

Political analysts believe that if the race tightens in the five-plus weeks remaining until election day Mr. Perot could cause some major mischief.

He could take enough votes away from Mr. Bush in Mr. Perot's native Texas — Mr. Bush's adopted home — to shift the state into the Clinton column.

In California, whose 54 electoral votes make it the biggest prize on election day, Mr. Perot could have the opposite effect, taking enough votes away from Mr. Clinton to tip the state to Mr. Bush.

All-Star weekend plans under way

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The NBA's All-Star block party next February may look something like a block party to local residents wishing to attend the league's mid-season showcase.

Despite parties, pageantry and plans to entertain, most people in Salt Lake will only be able to watch the game — held at the Delta Centre — on television.

NBA officials have made frequent trips to Salt Lake in recent months, scouting locations for parties, finding rooms and transportation for guests and even installing an intricate telephone system in local hotels to provide information on the game.

Just about all of it, though, is geared to the league's honored guests.

Utah Jazz officials emphasize the event, held Feb. 19-21, is the NBA's, and they're somewhat out of the loop.

"We're not even certain of the preparations they're doing," said Dave Allred, the Jazz's vice president of public relations.

Team officials don't want to take the heat for the fact only about 100,000 Jazz season-ticket holders will get into the Delta Centre for the game — and they'll pay \$75 for privilege of sitting far from court.

The league will use the new arena's other 10,000 seats for its sponsors and other guests.

Presumably, the rest of the season-ticket holders will get to attend the slam-dunk contest, old-timers game and three-point shooting contest Saturday. Those tickets go for a mere \$25.

"All season-ticket holders will be given the option of seeing one event or the other," Allred said. Jazz officials hope enough people choose the Saturday events that the team won't have to decide who can't come to the premiere event Sunday. But Allred admits that isn't likely.

"There will come a point where people who want to go to the Sunday game will be bumped to Saturday," he said.

NBA officials said they endure criticism every year from local fans shut out of the game. But this time, they're trying to take some of the sting away from local fans shut out of the main event.

Ski Austin, the NBA's special events director, said the Salt Lake game will be the first to include a weekend-long "jam session" at the Salt Palace.

The session, geared for local fans, will include clinics by players, three-on-three tournaments, dribbling contests, memorabilia displays, sports car trading shows and large video screens to watch the events at the Delta Centre, the show will cover 180,000 square feet of the Salt Palace convention centre, a block away from the Delta Centre arena.

"This will give the average person a chance to be a part of the events," Austin said. "We don't want the people who support the team to suffer."

Austin said the league hasn't yet decided on a price for the "jam session," but said the goal is to make it cheaper than the admission price to a movie.

Austin said Salt Lake has a shortage of good party spots, especially the kind that can host thousands of guests. The NBA is planning four separate parties for 2,400 more people each.

And one thing being considered is a block party on main street, although he acknowledges the weather may be too cold.

Diane Binger, marketing director for the Salt Lake convention and visitors bureau, said league officials visited last February during a period of unusually warm and sunny weather. They may not have an accurate view of the often bitter and snowy winter in northern Utah.

League officials unveiled their logo for the game Sunday featuring the Wasatch Mountains which tower east of Salt Lake City.

British speedway rider dies

LONDON (R) — British speedway rider Wayne Garratt died in hospital Monday after 15 days on a life-support machine. The 23-year-old Newcastle rider was taken to hospital suffering from a brain injury after crashing during a club match against Peterborough Sept. 13. He had been kept on a life support machine but died from a chest infection which spread to his lungs, a British speedway promoters' association spokesman said.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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PLAY FOR THE ONE CHANCE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NOBTH
♠ 9 5 3
♥ 10 9 4 2
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ 7 4

WEST
♠ A 4
♥ Q 3 5
♦ Q 7 2
♣ J 8 5 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 6
♥ 7
♦ Q 9 5
♣ K Q 10 9 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 7 2
♥ A K 8 6 3
♦ A 10 4
♣ A

The bidding:
North East South West

Pass Pass 1♥ Pass

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass

3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Whether it's a matter of ego or whether the wear and tear of competition is too stressful on a regular partnership, there is a high mortality rate among expert pairings. If there is one exception at top-level bridge, it's the partnership of Edgar Kaplan of New York City and Norman Kay of Philadelphia. They first became teammates in 1948, occasionally playing with each other, and since 1980 have been an exclusive partnership. Their purple patch was in the late 1980s, when they won every team championship they entered and represented North America in the world championship.

There could be a reason for this longevity. Norman is one of the greatest guys in the game, who never has a harsh word for anyone. He would find it impossible to tell Edgar he wanted to play with someone else, and the bridge world would ostracize Edgar if he elected to drop someone as universally popular as Norman.

Kaplan became declarer at four hearts after Kay made what can generously be described as a courtesy raise via a forcing-no-trump response—experts hate to pass hands with four-card support for opener's major. West led a club and, when declarer, after cashing the ace and king of hearts, found West with a sure trump trick, chances for the contract were slim.

West was thrown in with the queen of trumps. Declarer ruffed the club return and saw a ray of light—the contract might be brought home if West had started specifically with a doubleton ace of spades.

Declarer exited with a low spade to the nine and East's ten. East returned a spade and, when declarer ducked, West was not only forced to win the ace, but was endplayed into the bargain.

Since a club would present declarer with a ruff-and-dump, West chose to return the jack of diamonds. Declarer, playing for split honors, won on the table, finessed the ten of diamonds and, when that held, claimed 10 tricks.

Maradona returns to the field following 18-month suspension

SEVILLE (AP) — One assist, albeit a key one, certainly doesn't make a comeback. At least not for Diego Maradona.

The brilliant soccer star returned Monday after an 18-month suspension and assisted on the winning goal in Seville's 3-1 victory over Bayern Munich.

"It's a dream for me. More than anything else I owe it to the people that believed in me... like the people in Seville," Maradona said as he held back tears. "But this is just a beginning. It was a very beautiful beginning, but we have to press on."

Maradona, who played all 90 minutes of the exhibition match, showed some of the moves that made him the world's top player before he was suspended for drug use.

With the game tied at 1 in the second half, Maradona dashed off a quick, short pass from the left of Bayern Munich goalie Raimond Aumann that Croat teammate Davor Suker easily chipped in from 6 yards out in the 67th minute.

Seville coach Carlos Bilardo, a friend of the Argentine striker and probably the main reason he chose Seville, said he was not surprised Maradona played the entire game despite just a few days of practice and a long absence from competitive soccer.

"He always plays 90 minutes at all. He's not one to come off the

field so he can hear the applause," said Bilardo, who coached Maradona as a member of the Argentine national team. "I'm happy because this marks the return of No. 1 to soccer."

Maradona had his first scoring chance in the 18th minute when Aumann had to leap high to his left to stop a left-footed blast from 20 yards. A minute later, the 31-year-old striker rifled another left-footed shot off the crossbar.

Maradona also brought the crowd to its feet with several deft passes. In the 33rd minute he showed a soft touch on a pass from near midfield that teammate Ignacio Cornejo picked up and then fired just wide of the goal.

Playing before just 25,000 fans in 70,000-seat Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium, Maradona was cheered enthusiastically each time he touched the ball. In return, he smiled broadly to the crowd to show his appreciation — and his smile grew wider as he seemed to gain confidence throughout the match.

The crowd was probably held down because the game was televised locally and because season-ticket holders had to pay to attend the match.

The Spanish First-Division club bought the Argentine's transfer from Napoli last week for \$7.5 million after Maradona refused to

return to Napoli to complete the final year of his contract.

Germans praise Maradona

Diego Maradona received warm praise from German writers Tuesday for his comeback performance after missing 18 months of soccer.

"Maradona's return like a fairy tale," said a headline in the mass-circulation Bild newspaper.

The Argentine captain, who was suspended for 15 months for cocaine use and spent three months arguing with his former club Napoli over a transfer, made his comeback Monday evening for his new, Spanish club Seville, which beat Bayern Munich of Germany 3-1.

"Diego showed us what we have been missing for 554 days," Bild said. "These direct passes — a feast for the eyes. His touch unparalleled. His free kicks — extremely dangerous."

Maradona fed Davor Suker for one of Seville's goals and Bild called it a "dream pass."

"What a comeback!" Bild said, adding that Maradona came very close to proving that he is the best soccer player in the world.

The sports news agency SID said Maradona had a "successful comeback and was as convincing as in his best days in many scenes."



Diego Maradona

"After the long break, the Argentine captain also left a surprisingly good physical impression as well," SID said.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Injured Connors to miss tourney

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Jimmy Connors dropped out of the \$775,000 Swiss Indoors Tennis Tournament after bursing his knee in last Friday's match against Martina Navratilova, organizers said Monday. Connors, the world's 62nd-ranked player at age 40, was unseeded at the Basel tournament starting Tuesday, where he was expected to make a farewell appearance. The American has won 109 singles titles, including two Wimbledon and five U.S. Opens. Jonas Svensson of Sweden replaced Connors in Monday's singles draw. He got Jakob Hasek, who reached the Davis Cup Final with Switzerland last weekend, as first-round opponent. Connors beat Navratilova 7-5, 6-2 Friday in their exhibition match at Las Vegas, an updated version of the famous 1973 "battle of the sexes" between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King.

Sanchez, Perez-Roldan win in Italy

PALERMO (AP) — Seeded Spaniards Francisco Clavet and Javier Sanchez won their first round matches Monday to advance in the 315,000 Champions International Di Sicilia tennis tournament. The eighth-seeded Sanchez, a member of Spain's first family of tennis, downed Frenchman Rodolphe Gilbert 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. Sanchez's second-round opponent will be Argentina's Guillermo Perez-Roldan, who defeated Australian Paul Kilderry 6-3, 6-2. Clavet, the fourth seed, defeated Italy's Claudio Pistolesi 6-1, 1-6, 6-3. In another first-round match, unseeded Frenchman Thierry Champion breezed past Spain's Francisco Roig 6-4, 6-2. Top-seeded Carlos Costa of Spain begins action Tuesday against Swede Lars Johansson. Second-seeded Sergi Bruguera and third-seeded Emilio Sanchez, both of Spain, also play their first matches Tuesday. The winner of the clay-court tournament will receive \$41,000.

Oakland A's clinch AL West title

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — The Oakland Athletics clinched their fourth American League West title in five years Monday when the second-place Minnesota Twins lost to the Chicago White Sox 9-4. The Athletics, who did not play Monday, captured division titles from 1988 through 1990, went on to take the American League crown all three years and won the World Series in 1989. The Pittsburgh Pirates became the first Major League baseball team to clinch a division title Sunday, capturing their third successive National League East crown.

Martinez, Sukova advance in Leipzig

LEIPZIG, Germany (AP) — Second seeded Conchita Martinez and fifth-seeded Helena Sukova had easy straight set victories to advance to the second round of the 225,000 Leipzig Grand Prix women's tennis tournament. Martinez, of Spain, defeated Isabelle Demongeot of France 6-2, 6-4, while Sukova, of Czechoslovakia, ousted the young German Meike Babel 6-3, 6-1. Alexia Dechamne of France needed three hours and four minutes to prevail over Wilfried Probst of Germany 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4. Another German, Claudia Porwik, defeated Petra Holubova of Czechoslovakia 3-6, 6-0, 6-2, while the third Czechoslovak in action, Radka Zrubakova, beat American Katrina Adams 6-3, 6-2. The top seed in the tournament is Steffi Graf, who did not play singles Monday.

Couple cross Russia on motorcycle

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — A couple's motorcycle tour across northern Europe brought them, unintentionally, into the record book as the first people to cross Russia's vast expanse by motorcycle. "We rode the whole way," said Eric Haws. "Every muddy mile." Haws, 52, and his wife, Gail, started July 3 from Magadan in Siberia, and ended their 7,998-mile (12,869-kilometer) trip Aug. 22 in Helsinki, Finland. The record setting portion of the trip was the 6,998 miles (11,260 kilometers) from Magadan to Moscow. Haws said he and his wife planned the trip "as something fun to do, an adventure," and the chance to see the country. They did not know they had set a record until somebody mentioned afterward they should check with the Guinness Book of Records.

Wright gives timely England reminder

LONDON (R) — Arsenal's Ian Wright staked his claim for an England recall grabbing his sixth goal of the season before watching national team manager Graham Taylor. Wright's timing in the 1-0 English Premier League win over Manchester City was spot on. On Thursday, Taylor names his squad for England's opening World Cup qualifier against Norway Oct. 14. The striker's performance in Arsenal's first victory for five matches could earn him a starting place at Wembley. He not only supplied pace and flair in an improved Arsenal performance but Taylor will have noted that he kept his suspect temperament firmly in check.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Safety fears overshadow European soccer matches

LONDON (R) — Montenegrin midfielder Dejan Savicevic does not want to play in AC Milan's European Cup first round second leg tie against Olimpija Ljubljana Wednesday because he fears for his safety in Slovenia.

Savicevic, whose homeland is allied with Serbia in the war-torn former Yugoslavia, said: "The Slovenes don't frighten me."

"But Zagreb is only one hour's car journey away and there's nothing to stop Croats crossing the border and coming to watch the game."

Savicevic's loss will be the gain of Milan's Croat Zvonimir Boban, who is certain to play in what will be his first competitive game this season.

Milan won the home leg 4-0 and will rest Dutchman Marco Van Basten and Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin, whose places will be taken by Dutchman Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard.

Security will be very much on the minds of clubs and players elsewhere in Europe after recent incidents.

In Budapest, Ferencvaros have hired 200 private security officers to boost a large police presence for their European Cup tie against Czechoslovak club Slovan Bratislava.

Both clubs were fined by UEFA after Slovak security forces waded into the crowd with batons in the first leg in Bratislava which was won 4-1 by the home team.

UEFA also ordered Ferencvaros to take stringent precautions and to segregate fans for the return leg.

The Hungarian border guard spokesman, Colonel Attila Krisan, said Hungary would increase the number of border guards to help speed passport checks of fans heading to Budapest.

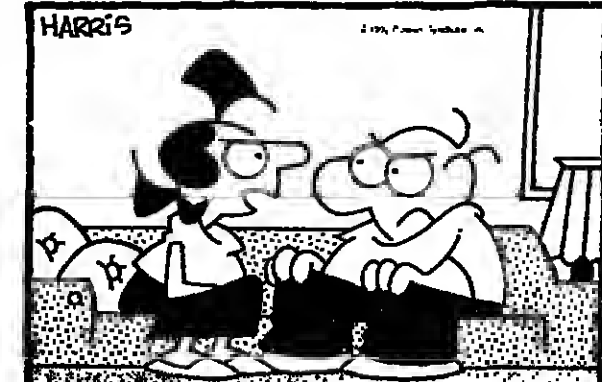
One Hungarian newspaper reported some fans planned to protest against the violence in the first leg by wearing black masks, just as the Slovak police had done.

In Cyprus, police tightened security for three "high risk" soccer matches on the island after all scheduled local games were cancelled following violence at the end of a game between Omonoia and Apollon Saturday.

Referee Stephanos Hadjistefanou, head of the Cyprus Referees' Association, was in hospital for two days after Omonoia fans beat him up for a last-minute penalty awarded to Apollon.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

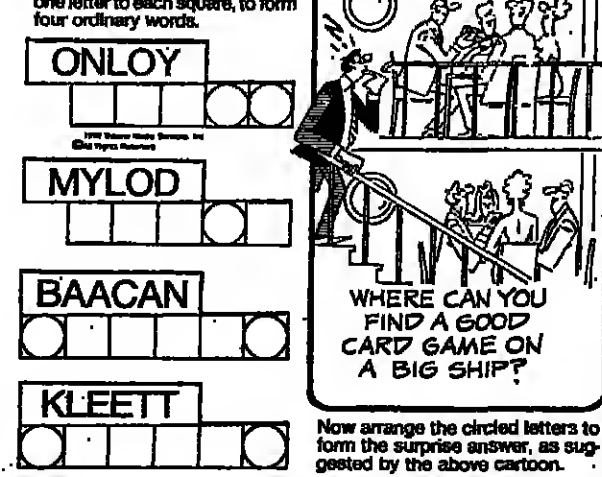
THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"That was you growling — it wasn't your stomach!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHINY JUICY HARDLY PILFER
Answer: How to tell when Dracula is waking up angry — HE FLIPS HIS LID

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1. Spectrum producer	41. Stead	51. Premier	58. Entrenched
2. Columbus' hometown	42. Approved var.	52. Semper	59. Admiral Zumwalt
3. Lining	43. — body cry (Bums)	53. Heaped	60. Too bad
4. Saled, e.g.	44. Rough-textured	54. Walking (stated)	61. Pay to play
		55. Lincoln coin	62. Donkey
			63. Previous to

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 28/9	TOKYO CLOSE Date 29/9
Sterling Pound	1.7317	1.7405
Deutsche Mark	1.4510	1.4465
Swiss Franc	1.2695	1.2683
French Franc	4.8945	4.8870
Japanese Yen	119.58	119.65
European Currency Unit	1.3535	1.3546

AND PER STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for currencies according to U.S. Dollars 1.000.000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	28/9/92	29/9/92
U.S. Dollar	0.675	0.677
Sterling Pound	1.7720	1.7779
Deutsche Mark	0.4652	0.4675
Swiss Franc	0.5312	0.5339
French Franc	0.1379	0.1386
Japanese Yen	0.5641	0.5669
Dutch Guilder	0.4138	0.4159
Swedish Krona	0.1241	0.1247
Italian Lira	0.0552	0.0555
Belgian Franc	0.02255	0.02266

Per 100
Other Currencies

Currency	28/9/92	29/9/92
Bahraini Dinar	1.7610	1.7740
Lebanese Lira	0.02657	0.02857
Saudi Riyal	0.1790	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2900
Omani Riyal	0.1829	0.1839
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7210	1.7350
UAE Dirham	0.1829	0.1839
Greek Drachma	0.3595	0.3795
Cypriot Pound	1.5350	1.5550

Per 100
Other Currencies

CAS Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	27/9/92	28/9/92	29/9/92	Close
All-Share	151.36	151.30	151.30	
Banking Sector	174.65	175.06	175.06	
Insurance Sector	155.02	157.40	157.40	
Industry Sector	198.72	197.79	197.79	
Services Sector	219.52	218.91	218.91	

October 31, 1992 = 100

Economists say Kuwait must cut spending

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, after spending billions of dollars to revive its oil-driven economy and compensate its people for the Gulf war, will have to tighten its belt or risk sinking deeper into debt, economists say.

The economy is a hot issue in the Oct. 5 general elections, with government supporters relying heavily on its generosity to the 600,000 Kuwaitis as a major vote winner.

Opposition candidates, notably the biggest non-religious grouping the Democratic Forum, criticise the free-spending ways and are campaigning for a greater accountability.

"The government is spending without consulting the people, who have the right to know," independent parliamentary candidate and businessman Kassem Mohammed Ali Al Sarraf told Reuters.

Many economists and Western experts see the future debt burden as a major concern and believe the state has to cut costs by accelerating its programme to shrink the huge public sector.

"We have room to decrease public spending by shifting people to the private sector," Jassem Al Saadoun, a leading Kuwaiti economist and prominent government critic said of its privatisation programme.

The government vigorously defends its record in the 18 months since Kuwait's Iraqi invaders were driven out.

It spent heavily to protect its citizens and restore normal life devastated by the Iraqi invasion of Aug. 1990.

Foreign investments worth some \$100 billion before the Iraqi occupation are believed to have shrunk to \$30-40 billion.

The government foresees a budget deficit of 1.78 billion dinars (\$6.1 billion) in the fiscal year which started July 1, down from 5.33 billion dinars (\$18.4 billion) in fiscal 1991/92.

It paid some \$50 billion for allied war costs, rebuilding its

vital oil industry and supporting its own people.

Few Kuwaitis — including the opposition — criticise the government for writing off bank loans on their cars and home mortgages, and raising salaries.

Ironically, some may be better off now than before the invasion since they have fewer debts, Western economists say.

Generosity, weak oil prices and an ambitious scheme to rebuild the armed forces have put pressure on the public purse.

Economists say that if the government bows to the opposition demands for cuts, then the welfare state — education, health services and infrastructure — would be the first to suffer.

But government salaries, which swallow the biggest slice of spending, would almost certainly remain untouched. Most working Kuwaitis are employed by the public sector.

"The average wage (of a Kuwaiti) is over \$2,000 a month," Mr. Saadoun told Reuters. "That is very high if you link it to the productivity of the employees."

Privatisation would switch part of the state labour force to the private sector, economists say. But the only concrete proposal so far is for the sale of 77 petrol stations.

Finance Minister Nasser

Iran says OPEC should consider non-dollar pricing

CAIRO (R) — OPEC oil exporters should consider pricing oil by a basket of currencies instead of in dollars following recent turmoil on European currency markets, Iran's central governor was quoted as saying.

"The situation is like a catastrophe," the London-based Al Hayat newspaper quoted Mohammad Hussein Adeli as saying.

"No one knows what currency to take refuge in to protect their (exchange) reserves. It's total chaos," he pointed out.

The 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has discussed moving away from dollar pricing several times in recent years.

Iran has promoted the idea but key producer Saudi Arabia has opposed it, saying a basket of currencies would create greater bureaucracy.

"(The crisis) means we are now offering oil free of charge... it is not only touching the industrial countries but most of the developing countries too," Mr. Adeli told Al Hayat during last week's conference of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington.

"If the crisis continues, it will be natural for oil producing countries to conclude that they should study the issue of pricing oil in dollars and think of some alternatives," he added.

Mr. Adeli said developing countries were now the engines of world economic growth.

"While the advanced countries are in economic stagnation and now suffer from a currency crisis, the developing countries are growing constantly," he said.

'Nigerian factor' blamed for economic woes

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government has defended its free market reforms and blamed problems in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy on a tendency to bend the rules.

Vice-President Augustus Abacha told a conference in the new capital Abuja that some difficulties still facing the economy after six years of the reforms were due to "the so-called Nigerian factor."

Mr. Abacha, a retired admiral, defined this as "the ingenuity of our people to frustrate the implementation of government policies and programmes for self-interest."

Government officials have consistently criticised banks, traders and producers of engaging in corrupt business practices and seeking ways to circumvent official economic guidelines.

Mr. Abacha said other factors hampering the structural adjustment programme (SAP) included a crippling foreign debt burden and continued dependency on oil exports.

SAP aims to mend an economy battered by years of low productivity, mismanagement and lower oil export earnings.

The economy showed signs of recovery during SAP's early years with annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth reaching 8.1 per cent in 1990 after a 2.1 per cent decline in 1986. But growth fell to 4.3 per cent last year.

It is not yet clear whether the new civilian government, due to be inaugurated on Jan. 2, will maintain the International Monetary Fund-backed austerity programme, criticised by local trade unions for widening the gap between the poor and rich.

Many of the 23 candidates contesting presidential primaries have said they would modify SAP if elected on Dec. 5 as Nigeria's first civilian leader in a decade.

U.S. budget deficit keeps growing

WASHINGTON (R) — The shortfall between the U.S. government's spending and its income expanded by \$24.7 billion in August as the total moved steadily to record heights, the Treasury Department has said.

So far in the first 11 months of fiscal 1992, ending Sept. 30, the deficit has swollen to \$255.6 billion from \$202.6 billion in the comparable 11 months of 1991.

The figure has already surpassed the previous record red-ink total of \$269.5 billion set in fiscal 1991.

The deficit has not been featured as a major economic problem to be dealt with by either a campaigning president George Bush or Democratic challenger Bill Clinton.

But private economists and international agencies warn it is a growing burden on the world economy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has criticised mounting U.S. debts as a drain on

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For other information, please call 616257 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

REQUIRED

Secretary required for a local young ship-broking company based in Amman. Fluency in English.

For Immediate interview: 616709

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.7520/30	U.S. dollars	1.2565/70
One U.S. dollar	1.4285/95	Canadian dollar	1.6120/30
	1.2480/95	Deutsche mark	29.40/44
	4.8300/00	Swiss francs	1207/1212
	119.36/41	Belgian francs	5.3830/3950
	5.525/5625	French francs	5.8250/8350
	5.525/5625	Italian lire	5.525/5625
		Japanese yen	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$347.25/347.75		

J.I. Case Company celebrates its 150th anniversary

WISCONSIN — J.I. Case Company, a leading worldwide manufacturer of agricultural and construction equipment was established in 1842. It was founded by Mr. Jerome Increase Case who was born in 1819 and died in 1891.

The company's headquarters are in Racine, Wisconsin — USA. Case's business was and still is Racine's largest industry and employer.

The company has 24,000 employees worldwide and does business in more than 150 countries.

The company's celebration of its 150th anniversary stands as a testimony to the tenacity, creativity and perseverance of its founder: Jerome Increase Case.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

SHARIHAN...IN LOVE & FEAR

(Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

DEAD BANG

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

THE GOONIES

Tel: 675571

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

at 6:00 p.m. daily

Shahrazad and Sinbad play

A quiet comedy for all members of the family (adults and kids). Prior reservation is needed.

The next show is:

(Taa' Waqaymeh)

Tel: 625155

AHLAN THEATRE

Nabil & Hisham presents

The Political Satire Play

Welcome... New World Order

Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

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Independent ground floor, with excellent furniture, consisting of three bedrooms, spacious salon, living room, parlor (guest room), dining room, balconies, separate telephone, very big garden, spacious garage.

Location: Jabal Al Hussein.

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Furnished Apartment For Rent

Ground floor in a 2-flat building, garden, central heating, telephone. 3 bedrooms, L-shaped dining-sitting room, 1 bathroom, kitchen, terrace, veranda.

Annual rent: JD 4,500

Studio, basement: With central heating.

Annual rent: JD 1,000

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Tel. 664380, Amman

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250m² roof, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large salon and dining room, deluxe kitchen and large terraces with beautiful view.

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SWEEPSTAKES

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FRANCIS HOSPITALITY SUITES

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At 6.30 J.D. Mega Shawarma Sandwich.

Please do not misunderstand. We do not sell hamburgers or shawarma, but a host of other outlets in Sweifish do among the 400 odd attractive shops in this Area.

RIGHT THERE We are soon starting business in a LUXURIOUS new building at the corner of Ishtikhali library and Gallery Abdul Hadi.

Russia sends troops to war-torn Tajikistan

MOSCOW (R) — Russia sent troop reinforcements to war-torn Tajikistan Tuesday to help defend servicemen in the Central Asian republic against attacks by feuding groups.

Local officials said hundreds of people were killed or wounded in Tajikistan in weekend clashes between supporters and opponents of ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

Armed groups have seized weapons from troops serving in Commonwealth units now under Russian control and taken servicemen hostage.

"A limited military contingent of Russian troops is on its way to Tajikistan to secure the safety of the military personnel, barracks and members of the servicemen's families," a Russian Defence Ministry spokesman said.

"This contingent will soon arrive at its destination," said the spokesman, who asked not to be named.

An army spokesman Monday said Russian forces were effectively blocked by rival groups in the southern Kurgan-Tyube region.

Russian Defence Ministry press chief Nikolai Medvedev said four officers taken hostage Sunday by Mr. Nabiyev supporters had been released.

"Russian troops earlier fired 31 servicemen seized by feuding armed groups."

"The situation in Tajikistan remains tense. There is still shooting going on in the Kurgan-Tyube region," Mr. Medvedev said in a telephone interview.

Kurgan-Tyube, some 80 kilometres south of Dushanbe, is the focus of bloody fighting between local opponents of Mr. Nabiyev and his supporters from the neighbouring Kulyab region.

The mayor of Kurgan-Tyube Monday said Nabiyev supporters had attacked the town with tanks and artillery fire over the weekend, killing or wounding hundreds.

Tajik Radio Monday said acting Tajik President Akbarsho Iskandarov had sent a protest note to Russian President Boris Yeltsin about the alleged use of Russian tanks by pro-Nabiyev forces.

Many hundreds have died both before and after Mr. Nabiyev was forced to resign at gunpoint earlier this month.

A third Defence Ministry spokesman said Tajik troops were starting to desert from Commonwealth units in the republic.

"There are many cases of Tajiks deserting from military units belonging to former Soviet troops stationed in Tajikistan, and not only in Dushanbe," he said.

An airport official, speaking by telephone from the northern Tajik town of Khadzhent, denied a Radio Russia report that Mr. Nabiyev was in hospital after being badly beaten up while trying to fly to Kulyab.

In Azerbaijan, ITAR-TASS News Agency said President Abulfaz Elchibey had called for a summit of Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus to discuss the conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh.

More than 3,000 people have died in four-and-a-half years of fighting over the disputed enclave, located in Azerbaijan but mainly populated by Armenians.

The news agency said Mr. Elchibey issued a statement on Monday night saying Baku welcomed all peacekeeping missions aimed at resolving the conflict.

The latest in a long line of ceasefires in the region, which came into effect Friday, collapsed within hours.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said last week that Commonwealth or United Nations peacekeeping forces would have to be sent into the region if the ceasefire failed.

But Interior Minister Iskander Hamidov told Azeri television Monday night that Mr. Grachev's reference to peacekeepers was nothing but a veiled form of aggression.

"Russia never had peacekeeping forces. Its army has been used only for annexation of foreign territories," the local Turan News Agency quoted him as saying.

Meanwhile, two Russian soldiers were killed and a third was seriously wounded in a gun battle with local security forces just outside the Georgian capital Tbilisi, the republic's Interior Ministry said Monday.

The shootout, which took place Sunday night, began when a Russian army truck failed to stop at a Georgian checkpoint, the ministry said.

U.S. to resume Sarajevo airlift in 24 hours

GENEVA (R) — The United States will restart the suspended relief airlift to the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo within the next 24 hours, authoritative diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources were speaking after Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic said he had been told of the planned U.S. move by international mediator Cyrus Vance.

There was no immediate official confirmation from Mr. Vance, United Nations co-chairman of the month-old peace conference on former Yugoslavia and a one-time U.S. secretary of state.

But the sources said he and his European Community colleague, Lord Owen, had been arguing strongly with all 19 governments involved in the original airlift — who included Germany, France and Britain — that they should start it up again.

The airlift, bringing essential food and medical supplies, was suspended on Sept. 3 after an Italian transport was shot down by a missile. U.N. relief officials said Tuesday a resumption might already be too late to save many lives.

"I know Vance and Owen have been raising heaven and earth to get it going again," said one diplomat. "If one country starts it up, it seems most likely that the others will follow."

Meanwhile, artillery and mortar shells fell on central Sarajevo Tuesday, hitting the main square near the Roman Catholic cathedral and killing a number of civilians, witnesses said.

Shortly afterwards more shells hit nearby Marshal Tito Street, Sarajevo's main thoroughfare, sending residents fleeing for shelter.

The mortuary at the city's main Kosevo Hospital said 11 dead had been brought in, but a spokesman said some of them might have been victims of other incidents.

Doctors said they were treating 25 wounded, 15 of them in a serious condition.

After the attack, pools of blood lay in the square and the main street, which were littered with glass and rubble. Craters showed where the shells had landed.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said Tuesday that 400,000 people could die from cold and hunger this winter in former Yugoslavia because the international response had been too slow.

"It really is too late," said UNHCR spokeswoman Sylvana Fox, recalling previous warnings that time was running out before an expected severe winter sets in. But she added that the best possible response, including resumption of the relief airlift into Sarajevo, could help.

Meanwhile, Bosnia-Herzegovina's President Alija Izetbegovic said he agreed with Mr. Vance and Lord Owen to start talks on demilitarisation of Sarajevo as a first step toward a ceasefire in the former Yugoslav republic.

The official said it was hoped that the Cosic-Tudjman meeting would be able to delay the return. Although the mediators back the return of refugees to their homes, U.N. officials say it is too soon for them to go back safely.

In a separate development, France has demanded an immediate international probe into charges that 3,000 Bosnian Muslims were executed at Serb-run detention camps last spring, saying that the massacre, if verified, would amount to genocide.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in a letter to the United Nations and the European Community released Tuesday that the two organisations had the means to carry out the probe in Bosnia and must open it as soon as possible.

"The international community must not tolerate that the slightest doubt remain on such monstrous events. I believe an international probe to check these accounts must be carried out at the earliest opportunity," he said in a letter to U.N. chief Boutros Ghali and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, whose country holds the rotating EC presidency.

The United States has said that new accounts from witnesses backed up reports that some 3,000 Bosnian Muslims were executed at Serb-run detention camps near the Bosnian town of Brcko.

Starting with the Izetbegovic meeting, Mr. Vance and Lord Owen were moving the Geneva peace talks on former Yugoslavia into a new round with key leaders. On Wednesday they and the mediators are to meet with President Dobrica Cosic of the Serb-dominated remnant of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Izetbegovic, who spoke to reporters after meeting with mediators, said Gen. Philippe Morillon, U.N. commander in the Sarajevo sector, was speaking Tuesday about the demilitarisation idea to the commander of forces of Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

"I believe that the political agreement on that already exists," he said and added that it would take only the agreement of the Bosnian government side and Mr. Karadzic's side to effect the demilitarisation.

He said the plan for Sarajevo would include a corridor to the north and another to the south allowing access to and from the city. If the demilitarisation of the Bosnian capital works, then the process would spread to "other hot spots" in the republic, Mr. Izetbegovic said.

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It is to be the first meeting between Mr. Cosic and Mr. Tudjman.

Diplomatic sources said that while Mr. Izetbegovic was leaving Geneva Tuesday and wouldn't take part in the Tudjman-Cosic talks, he would stop in Zagreb for a meeting with Mr. Tudjman on Tuesday evening.

The mediators have the immediate concern of heading off conflict over the announced intention of thousands of Croatian refugees to return Wednesday to Serb-occupied regions of Croatia, said an official, who asked not to be identified.

The official said it was hoped that the Cosic-Tudjman meeting would be able to delay the return. Although the mediators back the return of refugees to their homes, U.N. officials say it is too soon for them to go back safely.

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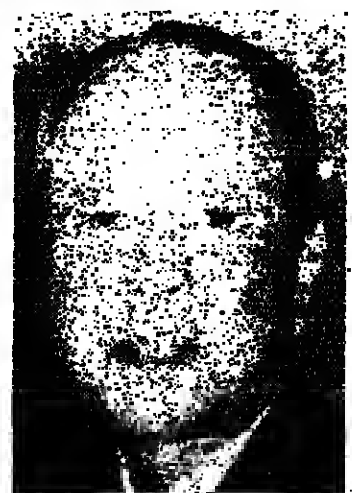
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Kikuchi Miyazawa
Miyazawa attacked as 'godfather' gets off easy

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Kikuchi Miyazawa was on the edge of a political minefield Tuesday after opposition demands that his chief patron, spared trial even though he broke the law, testify in parliament.

Mr. Miyazawa has escaped direct taint in the latest of Japan's scandals but could be weakened by the lenient treatment awarded Shin Kanemaru, Japan's most powerful politician, who has admitted violating a political funds law.

"Miyazawa is going to have a rough time getting through the upcoming session of parliament because of scandal developments," said political scientist Morihiko Hiroka of Chuo University.

"He hasn't the power to turn his back on Kanemaru, his main backer, but because of growing public anger he can't be seen protecting him from a parliamentary summons either."

Opposition parties joined business leaders, the press and ordinary citizens in slamming a decision by senior prosecutors Monday to spare Mr. Kanemaru the embarrassment of trial after he pleaded guilty in writing to taking 500 million yen (\$4 million) in illegal contributions from a gangster-linked firm.

On Tuesday a Tokyo court ordered the 78-year-old Kanemaru to pay a fine of just 200,000 yen (\$1,600), closing the books on the political side of the investigation into the Sagawa Kyubin trucking firm.

Sagawa wooed gangsters and politicians with huge sums of money to help its meteoric expansion in the 1980s.

The main opposition parties — Socialists, Democratic Socialists and the Komeito (Clean Government Party) — all said they would push for Mr. Kanemaru to testify.

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Zulu leader steps up anti-Mandela campaign

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi sought to rally black opposition to Nelson Mandela Tuesday by meeting with two prominent ANC opponents.

Mr. Buthelezi, head of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and chief minister of the KwaZulu black homeland, was meeting two other anti-ANC homeland leaders, President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana and Brigadier Oupa Gqozo of Ciskei, IFP sources said.

Some political commentators said there were fears of a separatist front emerging, with some black homeland leaders finding common cause with the white rightist Conservative Party.

An angry Buthelezi cancelled a meeting scheduled for Tuesday with President F.W. de Klerk, at which De Klerk was to have briefed the IFP chief on his Saturday summit with Mr. Mandela.

Mr. De Klerk originally called the summit to address endemic political violence in which more than 2,500 people have died this year alone.

Mr. Buthelezi accused the government and Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) of trying to impose their views on the country, a charge denied by the two parties.

The president told a church conference Tuesday that Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi, "whose supporters kill each other daily," should make peace and find a way to reconciliation.

Police reported nine more people killed Monday night in township violence, four in an attack on a squatter camp outside Johannesburg. Four other people died in Soweto township while one person was killed in a petrol-bomb attack on a bus.

Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht has welcomed opposition to Saturday's summit expressed by Mr. Buthelezi and Brig. Gqozo.

An anti-ANC front would increase the government's problems in fostering constitutional negotiations leading to non-racial rule in South Africa.

Political analysts noted Mr. De Klerk's ruling National Party would also depend heavily on support from the black homeland areas in competing against the ANC in general elections.

Under the summit accord, the government has started to release some 500 political prisoners and has "temporarily postponed" controversial investigations into possible crimes committed by ANC leaders during the anti-apartheid struggle.

They also dropped probes into security force members covering the same period before October 1990 except in cases where legal proceedings have already begun.

The weekend meeting between Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandela followed the Sept. 7 massacre by Ciskei troops of 28 ANC supporters seeking to march on the homeland capital Bisho and overthrow Gqozo.

Mr. Buthelezi has warned of possible civil war if a proposed ANC march on the KwaZulu capital Ulundi went ahead.

Pretoria set up 10 homelands under its previous apartheid policy to institutionalise the separation of blacks and whites.

The ANC has accused some of the leaders who oppose the anti-apartheid movement of being puppets of Pretoria.

Government sources said Mr. De Klerk would send a letter to Mr. Buthelezi "as a matter of urgency" to explain the agreements reached with the ANC Saturday. The government has said the IFP leader had completely misinterpreted the accord.

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